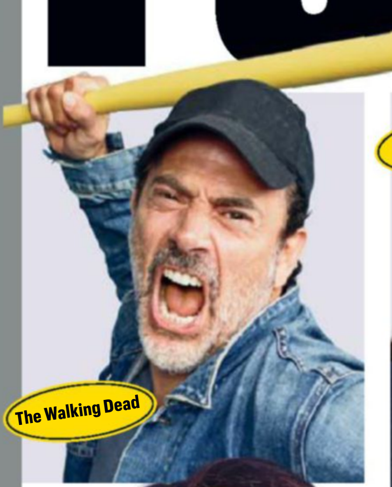
Entertainment WEEKLY

SEPT. 16/23, 2016 • #1431/1432

SPECIAL DOUBLE ISSUE

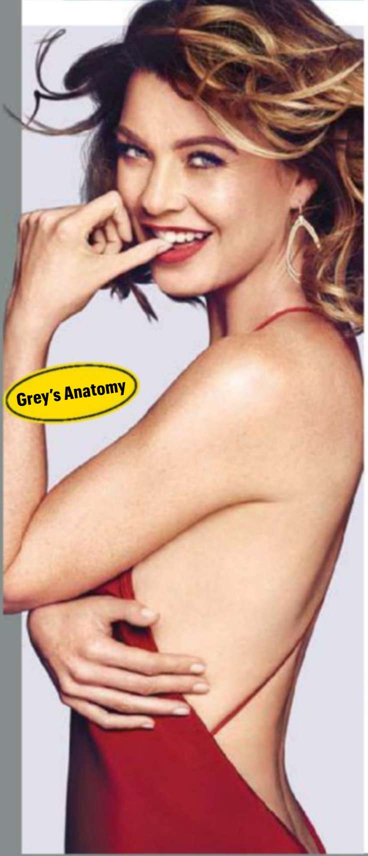
Fall TV PREVIEW

All The Scoop On 137 Shows

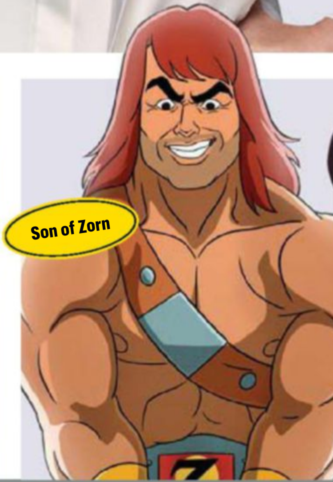

The Walking Dead

Gilmore Girls

Supernatural


Grey's Anatomy

The Good Place



Marvel's Luke Cage

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This.
Changes.
Everything.
the Voice
NBC
SEASON PREMIERE SEPT 19
MONDAYS & TUESDAYS 8/7c

HEROES AREN'T BORN.
THEY'RE HIRED.
Superstore
CLOUD9
JONAH
CHEYENNE
GARRETT
GRAND REOPENING SEPT 22 | THURSDAYS 8/7c NBC
FOLLOWED BY THE GOOD PLACE
Super Good

TED DANSON KRISTEN BELL

Welcome to

The Good Place

Everything is fine.

What the fork?!

SPECIAL 1-HOUR PREMIERE **MON SEPT 19** | **THURSDAYS 8:30/7:30c** NBC
AFTER THE VOICE

Thursdays

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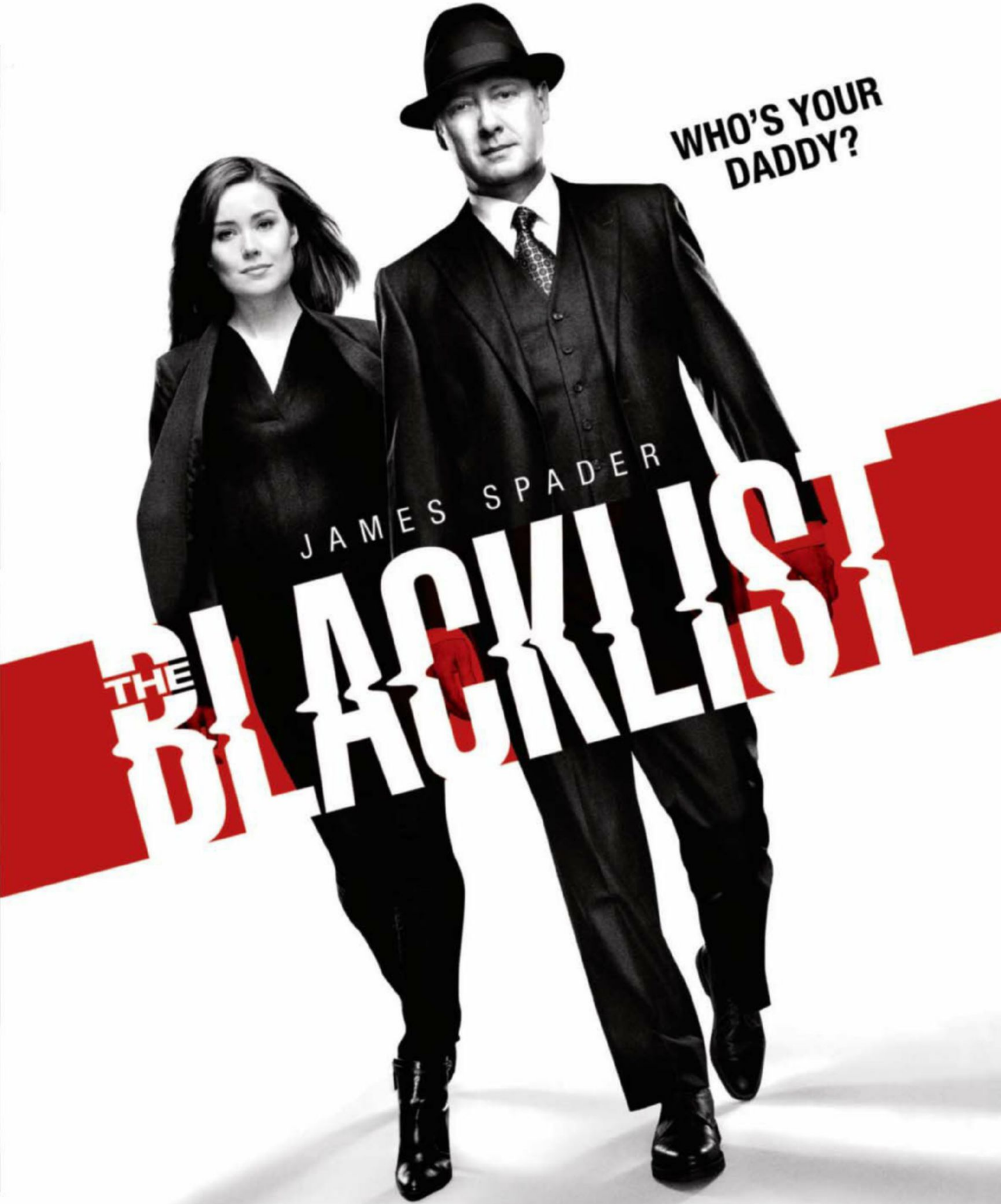
SAVING LIVES WITH EVERYTHING THEY'VE GOT

CHICAGO
MED
A Division of NBCUniversal

SEASON PREMIERE **SEPT 22** | **THURSDAYS 9/8c** NBC

FOLLOWED BY **THE BLACKLIST**


WHO'S YOUR DADDY?
JAMES SPADER
THE BLACKLIST

SEASON PREMIERE **SEPT 22** | **THURSDAYS 10/9c** NBC

AFTER **CHICAGO MED**

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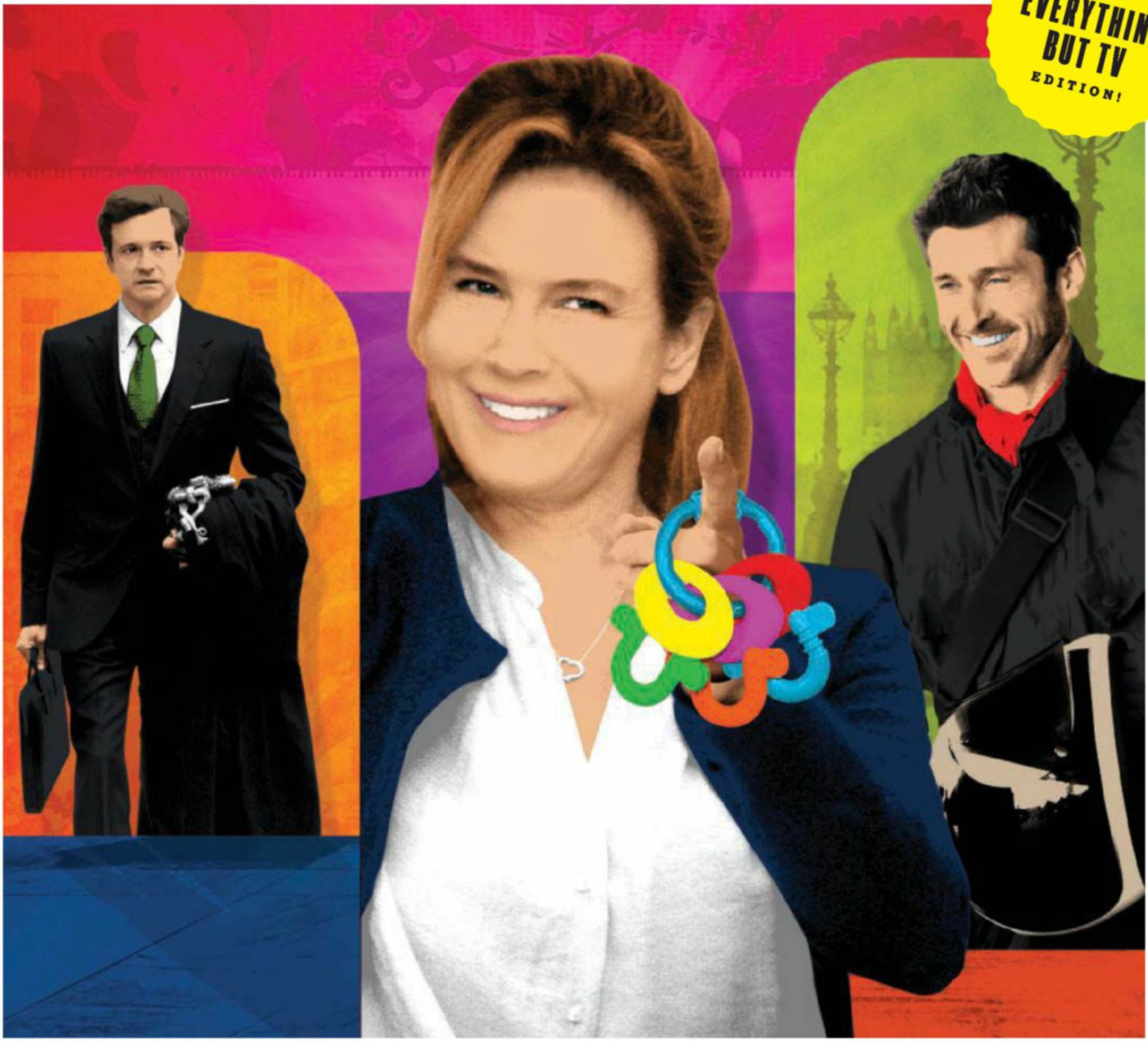
THE **TOP 10** THINGS WE LOVE THIS WEEK

The Must List

THE EVERYTHING BUT TV EDITION!

▼ Colin Firth, Renée Zellweger, and Patrick Dempsey



BRIDGET JONES'S BABY: GILES KEYTE (3)

1

MOVIES

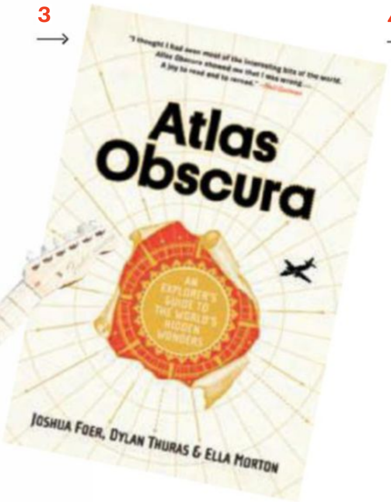
BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

• Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger) and her love life are as complicated as ever—especially with an unplanned pregnancy and baby-daddy drama. Sweet and ever-so-charming, it's the rom-com romp fans have been waiting for. *(R)*

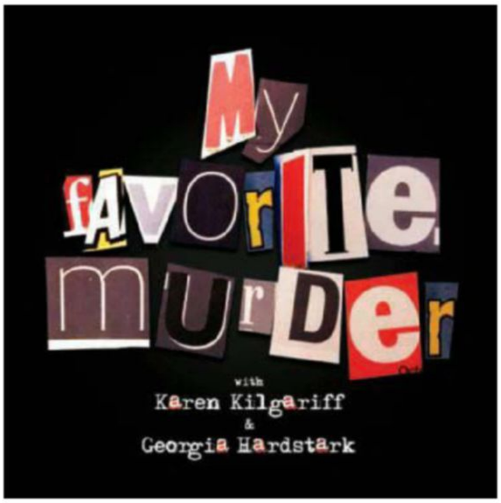
ILLUSTRATION BY **JOHN RITTER**

2 →

3 →


"I thought I had seen most of the interesting bits of the world. Atlas Obscura showed me that I was wrong.... A joy to read and to reread."
Atlas Obscura
AN EXPLORER'S GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S HIDDEN WONDERS
JOSHUA FOER, DYLAN THURAS & ELLA MORTON

4 →


My favorite murder
with
Karen Kilgariff
&
Georgia Hardstark

5 →

2

MUSIC

ACOUSTIC RECORDINGS 1998–2016, Jack White

● Many know the former White Stripes frontman for his gritty electric blues, but this new two-disc set compiles unplugged recordings from various projects, including non-album remixes and the fresh cut "City Lights."

3

BOOKS

ATLAS OBSCURA, by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras, and Ella Morton

● In this gorgeous collection, the celebrated Atlas Obscura website is condensed into 480 pages of awe-inspiring destinations. For lovers of history and exploration, the striking color photographs will spark immediate wanderlust.

4

PODCASTS

MY FAVORITE MURDER

● Prepare to be spooked! If you can't get enough of murder mysteries, you're not alone. Comedians Georgia Hardstark and Karen Kilgariff add a dark sense of humor to this true-crime podcast that dives deep into the details of cold cases and captivating mysteries. *(iTunes)*

5

MUSIC

SUNLIT YOUTH, Local Natives

● The L.A. band's first two albums made them darlings of the indie-rock scene, but with their third record, they're poised to bust out of coffeehouses. Stadium-size hooks, enormous drums, and scores of guitars don't just beg for arenas; they demand them.

8 →
7 →
6 →
Commonwealth
A Novel
Ann Patchett
Red-Blooded American Male
9 →
MIA
AIM
10 →

WHITE: LARRY BUSACCA/GETTY IMAGES; *BLOOD SIMPLE*: PHOTOFEST; TUNSTALL: TOM OXLEY

6

BOOKS

COMMONWEALTH, by Ann Patchett

● The award-winning author's seventh novel might be her most personal yet: a beautifully wrought tale of two blended families spread across nearly half a century.

7

BOOKS

RED-BLOODED AMERICAN MALE, by Robert Trachtenberg

● This clever EW collaborating photographer has a gift for capturing famous gentlemen like Jon Stewart and Channing Tatum in hilarious and often compromising positions of his own making.

8

MOVIES

BLOOD SIMPLE Criterion Edition

● The Coen brothers' first feature gets the deluxe home-video treatment it deserves with a pristine restoration and behind-the-scenes features that explain how two kids from Minnesota became cinematic forces. *(R)*

9

MUSIC

AIM, M.I.A.

● Her *AIM* is on point: The fearless Sri Lankan MC reconciled with ex-boyfriend Diplo ("Bird Song" remix), recruited former One Directioner Zayn Malik (the stunning "Freedun"), and scoured the world for the edgiest sounds and rhythms. The result is her best set since 2007's *Kala*.

10

MUSIC

"HARD GIRLS," KT Tunstall

● Pop music has no shortage of self-acceptance anthems, but on this instant sing-along from her new album, *KIN*, the Scottish artist's warm lyrics and funky synth breakdowns make her message feel like a revelation.

Editor's Note

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@HenryGoldblatt

EW HAS ALWAYS COVERED TV—NOW WE'RE ON IT

Plus, check out the additional acts we've booked for our first big festival, EW PopFest

SOMETIMES DEMOCRACY WORKS! A COUPLE MONTHS back we asked you to vote and decide which show should appear on the cover of our Fall TV Preview issue that's sent to subscribers. We're grateful to the 2.6 million of you who participated. After some hanging chads (to borrow a joke from the year 2000) and contentious accusations of voting-machine tampering in Sandusky, Ohio (kidding!), The CW's *Supernatural* prevailed. We were so thrilled by your pick we decided to sell the cover on some newsstands, too, so we've struck a deal with Barnes & Noble stores to exclusively distribute our *Supernatural* collector's cover. (If you're not a *Supernatural* fanatic, don't worry, you can still buy our annual collage cover on other newsstands where EW is usually sold.)

Inside the issue, the TV team—led by deputy editor **Meeta Agrawal** and features editor **Bill Keith**—has brought you intel on 137 new and returning shows. This is a particularly strong fall for new series. My two favorites: ABC's *Designated Survivor*, which sees **Kiefer Sutherland**'s Tom Kirkman, a low-level Cabinet member, become president after a bomb wipes out most of Washington's leaders; and *This Is Us*, NBC's new family drama, which contains a gloriously gratuitous shot of **Milo Ventimiglia**'s butt, and one of the best plot twists I've ever seen in a pilot.

Elsewhere at EW HQ, we're continuing to line up some amazing talent for **EW PopFest** in L.A. (Oct. 29–30), our first large-scale festival celebrating the best in entertainment. The cast of *Supernatural*, **James Corden**, and **Anna Faris** are all attending. VIP tickets can buy you access to an early screening of *Doctor Strange*. In addition, we're booking a podcast studio where you can watch live recordings of all your favorites, including *Allegedly...* with **Matthew Cole Weiss** and **Theo Von**. Get tickets and up-to-the-minute programming details at ewpopfest.com.

Lastly, EW has a TV-related announcement of its own: We are launching our own network! Starting Sept. 13, the **People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN)** will be streaming on a device near you (including Apple TV, Roku, etc.—pretty much anywhere you'd see Netflix or Hulu). Just download the app and start watching series such as *Entertainment Weekly: The Show* (an inside look at how we put together the magazine, as well as a deep dive into the biggest pop culture stories of the week), *BingeWorthy* with EW Radio host **Jessica Shaw** and journalist **Touré** (a modern-day Siskel and Ebert—only they're tackling TV), and many more.

I'm eager to hear your thoughts on the channel—and on the question of whether it's socially acceptable to drink rosé after Labor Day.

Henry

HENRY GOLDBLATT

Entertainment
Fall TV
PREVIEW
FALL TV PREVIEW
Entertainment
137
Supernatural

ON THE COVERS

Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles photographed exclusively for EW by Matthias Clamer on Aug. 23, 2016, in Vancouver

HAIR: JENNIFER MANTON;
MAKEUP: TRISHA PORTER;
WARDROBE: KERRY WEINRAUCH;
PROPS: KAROLINA GRANT;
PRODUCTION: SUSAN MILNE

GOLDBLATT: PHOTOGRAPH BY MILLER MOBLEY; (COVER) *SOUTH PARK*: COMEDY CENTRAL; *THE WALKING DEAD, THE GOOD PLACE, MARVEL'S LUKE CAGE*: PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHIAS CLAMER; *GILMORE GIRLS*: PHOTOGRAPH BY CHRIS CRAYMER; *GREY'S ANATOMY*: PHOTOGRAPH BY JAMES WHITE; SON OF ZORN: FOX

MINNIE DRIVER

SPEECHLESS

a new comedy

SEPT 21 **WEDNESDAYS** 8:30|7:30c

#Speechless

FUNNY

ABC THURSDAY...LET
GREY'S ANATOMY
NOTO

THE DRAMA BEGIN.
NEW SERIES
RIOUS
how to get away with Murder
THURSDAYS STARTING AT 8|7c
abc

THE WEEK'S BEST

Sound Bites

FALL TV EDITION!

"Somebody royally forked up. Why can't I say *fork*?"

—Eleanor (Kristen Bell), after learning she can't drop the F-bomb in heaven, on *The Good Place*

"I'm already chubby, I hate golf, and our kids will be home, right?... Okay, then I really need to get back to work."

—Roger (Damon Wayans) to his wife, Trish (Keesha Sharp), who suggests he doesn't have to return to work as a cop, on *Lethal Weapon*

"You spent last Christmas fishing in Alaska.... It was the best Christmas I have had in years!"

—Frances (Sarah Jessica Parker) to her husband, Robert (Thomas Haden Church), before telling him she wants a divorce, on *Divorce*

"I'm not going on some stupid diet. Greg pretty much wants to have sex with me all the time anyway. I'm not really interested in giving him any added incentives."

—Katie (Katy Mixon), about her husband (Diedrich Bader), on *American Housewife*

"If you'll excuse me, I have candy to crush."

—Adam (Matt LeBlanc) on *Man With a Plan*

"This is Dr. Dre, I'm Nurse Jackie. We're from General Hospital."

—Lucy (Abigail Spencer) to Commander Rosenthal (Kurt Max Runte), after time-traveling, on *Timeless*

WAYANS: RICHARD FOREMAN/FOX; BELL: ROBERT TRACHTENBERG/NBC; PARKER: CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO; MIXON: CRAIG SJODIN/ABC; SPENCER: JOE LEDERER/NBC; LEBLANC: ELISABETH CAREN/CBS

SOUTH PARK
XX
THE TWENTIETH SEASON

WEDNESDAYS & ON THE CC APP

COMEDY CENTRAL

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95 calories, 2.6g carbs, 0.6g protein and 0.0g fat, per 12 oz.

FALL TV 2016 Preview

Table of Contents

SUPER-NATURAL P. 18
MONDAY P. 24
TUESDAY P. 44
WEDNESDAY P. 62
THURSDAY P. 75
FRIDAY & SATURDAY P. 92
SUNDAY P. 102
STREAMING P. 116
FALL'S BEST NEW SHOWS P. 131
WHAT TO WATCH P. 132

ILLUSTRATION BY NAME HERE

EW READERS' CHOICE WINNER

We asked you to pick your favorite fall show,
brothers have added yet another victory to their

Misha Collins, Jensen Ackles, Mark Sheppard, and Jared Padalecki photographed on Aug. 23, 2016, on the Vancouver set

SUPERN

and you voted—again, and again, and again. In their 12th season, the Winchester
list of achievements. (This one comes right after stopping the apocalypse.)

ATURAL

Returning Drama

- *SEASON 12*
- OCT. 13
- THE CW
- 9PM

By *Samantha Highfill* @SAMHIGHFILL

Photographs by *Matthias Clamer*

FALL TV PREVIEW 2016

Ackles and Padalecki

THE CORONER'S VAN JUST PULLED INTO THE DRIVEWAY. It's the middle of August, and Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles are filming a scene at a farmhouse in the Vancouver countryside, which at the moment is passing for Iowa. Sam and Dean Winchester have ditched their flannels and jeans for sweaters and slacks in order to pose as social workers. They're doing what the brothers do best: lying about their jobs in order to solve mysteries and kill monsters—in other words, saving people, hunting things. ◎ Heading into its 12th season, the longest run of any CW or WB show, *Supernatural* tells the story of the Winchester brothers, who fell into the family business of hunting creatures after their mother was killed by a demon. What began as their father's journey for revenge has evolved into countless monster slayings, near-death experiences, and a few actual deaths. ◎ By this point, the Winchesters have been to hell and back, killed Death himself, come face-to-face with God, and prevented the apocalypse. But perhaps more impressively, the series has survived three network presidents, four showrunners, a writers' strike, and four different time slots. Turns out the only thing harder to kill than the Winchesters is the show itself. "It's one of those shows that has moved a lot, and yet each time it has found that core audience and built on it," Warner Bros. Television president Peter Roth says. "It's been an unsung hero." ◎ If anyone knows about being an unsung hero, it's Sam (Padalecki) and Dean (Ackles), who've dedicated their lives to saving others and asked for nothing in return. Seriously, how many nights have they spent sleeping in their car? And yet, that on-the-road lifestyle has paved the way for a number of the show's riskier episodes, which play a crucial role in keeping the audience engaged. Just last year, "Baby" was told entirely from the perspective of their beloved 1967 Impala, and that's not even close to the craziest thing the show's tried. ◎ Aside from the rules the show creates within its canon—yes, they have a historian in the writers' room to keep them honest—not even the sky is the limit when it comes to story ideas. "[Show creator] Eric [Kripke] used to say, 'Smoke 'em if you've got 'em,' which meant: Anything crazy, don't be afraid to run it by us," executive producer Robert Singer says. That motto led most famously to season 6's "The French Mistake," in which Sam and Dean found themselves in an alternate universe where everyone mistook them for Jared Padalecki and Jensen Ackles, the stars of a show called *Supernatural*. "Our show's not bound by reality," Ackles says. "We're rooted in reality, but we're not bound by it. That gives us a fifth wall almost." ◎ No matter how meta or abstract the ideas get—God has a sister!—one thing remains unchanged: At the center of it all are Ackles and Padalecki, whose Sam and Dean are the beating heart of the show (whether theirs are beating or not). Sitting down to dinner in Vancouver, the brotherhood between the two—who both live in Austin when they're not filming—is on full display as they finish each other's sentences and argue about how Padalecki ate the last piece of tuna.

(PHOTO SHOOT) HAIR: JENNIFER MANTON; MAKEUP: TRISHA PORTER; WARDROBE: KERRY WEINRAUCH; PROPS: KAROLINA GRANT; PRODUCTION: SUSAN MILNE

Fans won't be surprised by the chemistry, but what might be surprising is that 11 years later the stars are still eager to talk about why they love their show, even pulling up their favorite scenes on their phones to watch at the table. Padalecki, 34, can easily name the scripts that made him cry—"Heart," "Sacrifice," and "Baby" all make the list. The common thread is a heartfelt moment between the brothers where they get to talk about their crazy life as if, say, having visions of Lucifer is normal. "I feel like those situations where we treat the abstract and the fantastical as just part of life is where the show thrives," Padalecki says. Ackles, 38, adds, "I think the show is truly at its best when it doesn't take itself too seriously, then it does take itself seriously, then it gets scary as s---."

Coming off a season that checked all of those boxes, new showrunner Andrew Dabb has big shoes to fill. His plan: Get back to basics. "Every time we do a big world-spanning story, we feel we're really stretching our show," Dabb says. "What our show was designed to be and I think functions best as is smaller personal stories with a genre twist."

And it's hard not to tell a personal story when season 11 ended with the resurrection of Mary Winchester (Samantha Smith), Sam and Dean's mother, who died in the pilot. "You're going to see two brothers be sons," Ackles says. "We saw that [with their dad, John], but when you're a son to your father, it's a different son than you are to your mother." With God and Amara fading to the background, Mary will find herself in the bunker and on the road hunting. "[This season is] more Sam and Dean on the road. Mary is there. Cas is there. Crowley is there," Dabb says. As Crowley (Mark Sheppard) is less concerned with Moose and Squirrel than with regaining control of hell, Castiel (Misha Collins) is the one encouraging the brothers to bond with Mom. "He has a shared experience of feeling like an outsider with the brothers yet feeling connected to them," says Collins, whose angel is as close as one can get to being a third Winchester brother. "He is pushing them to confront the emotional bomb that is their mother showing up."

For Sam, it's his first real chance to meet his mom, who died when he was six months old. "I think Sam has glorified Mom so much in his head," Padalecki says. "It's almost like a blind date and Sam's already in love with the person he hasn't met yet. It's been fun for me, after 240-something episodes, to have a brand-new facet of Sam's personality to play."

Two hundred forty-one episodes, to be exact, and they're not done yet. The CW president Mark Pedowitz has made it clear that as long at the guys are happy and the ratings are relatively stable, *Supernatural* has a long life ahead.

For Ackles and Padalecki, their focus is on the next milestone: hitting 300 episodes (something that would take them 13 episodes into season 14). However, if Sam and Dean have taught them anything, it's that Death can be lurking around every corner (and he's usually eating pizza). "If we don't make it to 300, I think Ackles and I will both be truly bummed," Padalecki says. "When we get to 300, I think Ackles and I will think it might be time to say bye. There's a chance that changes, but we certainly do not take it for granted that we're going to make it to 300." Ackles adds: "They're paying us to bring that little bit of magic to what they wrote, and I still feel that magic today. The day that I don't feel that magic will be a very sad day, and I hope that day never comes. I'd like to get to 300 before that day comes." (The only thing that's certain about *Supernatural*'s end is Baby's fate. "He gets Baby," Padalecki says of Ackles. "I get Baby Two." Ackles makes one correction: "No, you'll get Three. Two is stunt. It's beat to s---.")

As the sun sets on the Vancouver countryside, Sam and Dean ditch their slacks for jeans and send the coroner's van on its way. It won't be needed—this show has a lot of life left in it. Not that death has ever stopped it before.

> **“ I'VE LEARNED A LOT FROM MY FRIEND SAM AND MY FRIEND DEAN. I WANT TO TELL THAT STORY AS WELL AS POSSIBLE AS LONG AS POSSIBLE, BUT I DON'T WANT IT TO GET TOO LONG IN THE TOOTH."** —JARED PADALECKI

SHOW BI
THE AFFAIR
SEASON TWO
BLUE BLOODS
THE SIXTH SEASON
RAY DONOVAN
SEASON FOUR
SAVE YOURSELF
the good wife
THE FINAL SEASON
CODE BLACK
SEASON 1
PENNY DREADFUL
THE FINAL SEASON
NCIS: NEW ORLEANS
THE SECOND SEASON
THE SIXTH SEASON
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CRIMINAL MINDS
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THE FIRST SEASON
scorpion
SEASON TWO
TÉA LEONI
SEASON 2
MADAM★SECRETARY
CRIMINAL MINDS 11
NCIS: LOS ANGELES
SEASON 7
ELEMENTARY
THE FOURTH SEASON
with TV on DVD
CBS DVD

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FALL TV
PREVIEW
2016

MONDAY

CONTENTS

Man With a Plan P. 30 ✦ The Big Bang Theory P. 32 ✦ Dancing With the Stars P. 34 ✦ Gotham P. 34 ✦
Mary + Jane P. 38 ✦ Scorpion P. 38 ✦ Supergirl P. 40

Returning Comedy

JANE THE VIRGIN

- SEASON 3
- OCT. 17
- THE CW
- 9PM

By *Nina Terrero* @NINA_TERRERO

Photograph by *Ramona Rosales*

Brett Dier, Gina Rodriguez, and Justin Baldoni photographed on July 12, 2016, on the L.A. set

The Voice P. 34 ✦ Kevin Can Wait P. 34 ✦ 2 Broke Girls P. 34 ✦ Lucifer P. 34 ✦ Timeless P. 36 ✦ The Odd Couple P. 38 ✦ Conviction P. 38

Rodriguez, Andrea Navedo, and Ivonne Coll

GINA RODRIGUEZ IS SOBBING. ON THE LOS ANGELES set of *Jane the Virgin*, the actress has filmed numerous takes of a tearjerker scene for the season 3 premiere. And given the heart-wrenching news her character has just received, it's no wonder the waterworks are flowing. Despite everything plucky Jane has gone through over the past two seasons—including a surprise artificial insemination with her ex-crush's sperm, two devastating breakups, finding her long-lost father, and defeating the odds to chase her dreams of becoming a professional romance writer—the momentous scene in a bleak hospital hallway might just be the most sobering moment on the series to date. ● But the second that director Gina Lamar yells "Cut!" Rodriguez wipes away her tears and breaks into a sunny smile, revealing a glimpse of the Everygirl charm and natural talent that helped catapult her from an unknown actress to one of young Hollywood's brightest stars and earned her a Golden Globe. "You learn to replace your energy in some other thought than the one in the scene," the 32-year-old explains. And she'll be doing a lot of that, as this season brings out a different side of normally lighthearted Jane. "You see her in the lowest of lows," reveals Rodriguez of her character's emotional arc ahead. "It's very heavy." ● For showrunner and creator Jennie Snyder Urman, putting her leading lady through the proverbial wringer is part of her plan to take *Jane*—a loose adaptation of a popular Venezuelan telenovela—into new creative territory. "This year's theme is about growing up in a real, deeper way," says Urman. "All of our characters are taking major steps forward." Growing up, however, doesn't mean abandoning the show's signature blend of heartfelt story lines, soap opera tropes, tongue-in-cheek humor, and a sincere—not stereotypical—depiction of Hispanic culture. Over 44 episodes, Urman's family-focused effort has earned success with critics and millennials alike, a surprising feat for a show that markets itself as a sweetly comedic spin on the typical telenovela format.

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) HAIR: MICHELLE RENE ELAM, RICK EVANS; MAKEUP: SHAUNA GIESBRECHT, STEVEN ANDERSON; WARDROBE: RACHEL SAGE KUNIN. (THIS PAGE) MICHAEL DESMOND/THE CW

Rodriguez and Baldoni

"I really feel the balance of our show works best when it has all of these different elements," reflects Urman. "As long as we have a lot of those elements going on, which is the trick of the show, it can hopefully speak to and affect a lot of different kinds of people."

One of the most popular aspects of the show is its use of magic realism—a storytelling style responsible for past seasons' hilarious iterations of Jane as a sequin-spangled *Bachelorette* contestant and an unapologetically fierce Lucha Libre-like wrestler. The upcoming season promises to feature its share of fun fantasy sequences, but in keeping with Urman's desire to see her characters mature, the plot will provide a natural jumping-off point for some experimentation.

"We are doing some structural things differently," explains Urman, whose plans for the premiere include incorporating flashbacks to the early days of Jane and Michael's courtship. "You're going to be learning a lot more history than you knew originally.... You'll figure out how the past impacts the present."

And that past is...complicated. Since the show's debut in 2014, Jane has had two very different suitors competing for her love in what could be one of TV's most dramatic (and certainly melodramatic) love triangles: Rafael (Justin Baldoni), the roguish millionaire and the man whose sperm was used to inseminate her, and Michael (Brett Dier), the sweet boy next door and on-again, off-again fiancé. As both are fully fledged characters, with ardent fan bases of their own, there seemed no clear winner between the pair—until Jane took the plunge and revisited Michael's marriage proposal. Married in the finale episode of season 2 with a flashy party that included Bruno Mars as the wedding singer, Jane finally seemed set for a wild night of passion—that is, until her brand-new husband was shot.

The premiere picks up just four short minutes after last season's jaw-dropper, and Urman promises it will address all matters that have kept fans manic for the show's return: Did Michael survive after having been shot by an in-disguise Rose (Bridget Regan)? Will boy-crazy Xo (Andrea Navedo) stick to her resolve to grow up and reveal her surprise pregnancy to sometime love Rogelio (Jaime Camil), mother Alba (Ivonne Coll), *and* daughter Jane? And will hunky Rafael react to losing Jane by rebounding with his scheming ex-wife Petra (Yael Grobglas), who's really her twin sister, Anezka?

"I feel so much pressure," admits Urman of the challenge to devise twisty plots for the 20-episode season ahead. "You want to make sure you're uncovering new things and not repeating the same story lines and mixing characters up in a way that feels natural."

One thing's for sure: The will-she-or-won't-she nature of Jane's love life will remain a mess, further complicated when a certain someone makes an unexpected appearance. "You'll meet someone from Jane's past, before she met Michael," teases Urman. The show-runner is also planning the ultimate toe-curling scene, the highly anticipated moment when Jane loses her virginity. Though Urman refuses to spill on the identity of the lucky man—"There's obviously a lot of tension and question marks over that"—Jane will have sex during the first half of the season. "It's keeping me up at night," says Urman. She pauses, then laughs. "We want to give real expectations, knowing that it doesn't always come together all at once."

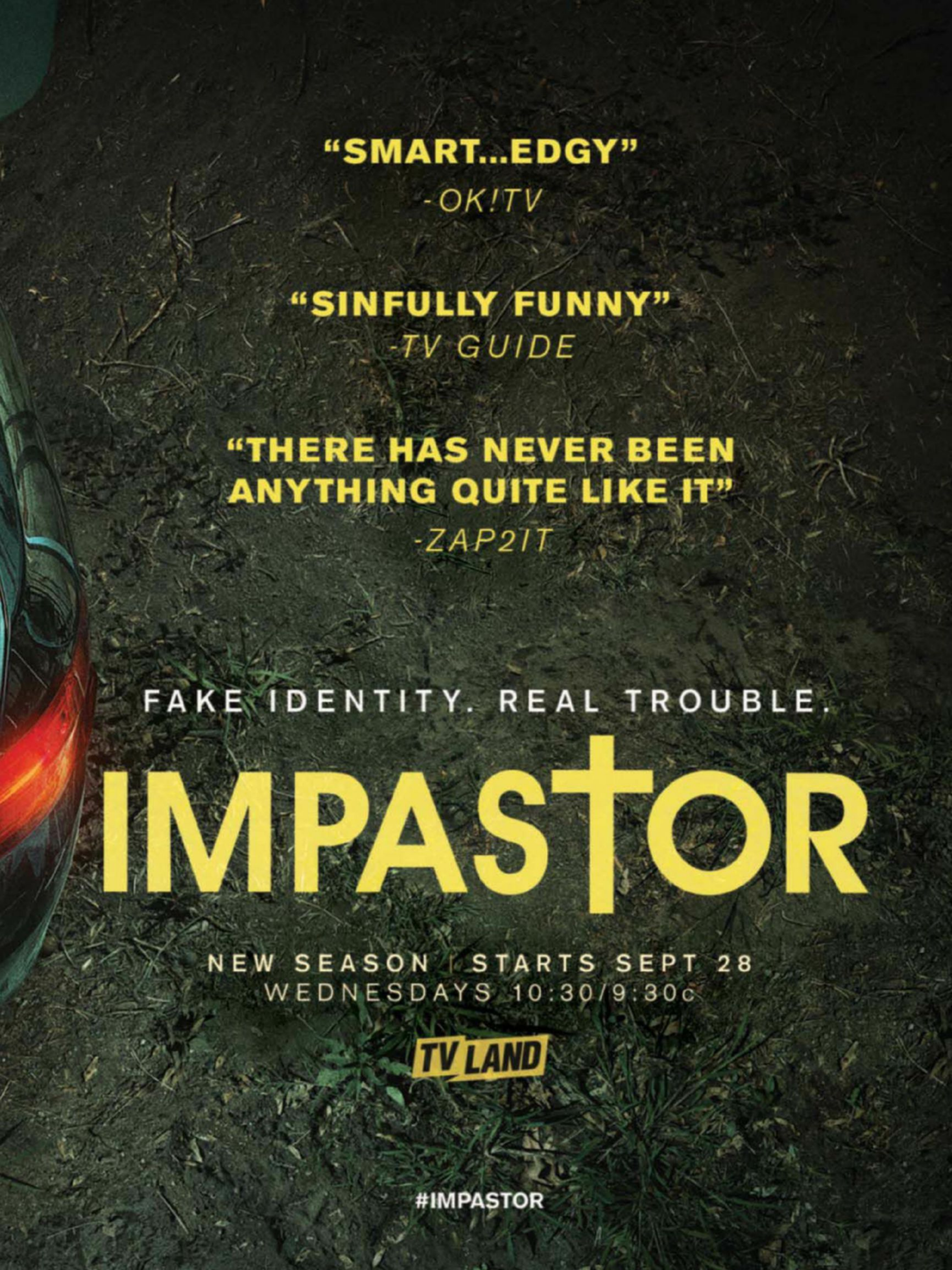
Romantic uproars aside, an epic "dragged-out fight" in classic telenovela style is in the works, as is a season-long arc featuring Jane's adventures retracing her *abuela* Alba's immigration journey—complete with '70s-soundtrack-laden scenes and groovy fashions. And in keeping with the show's track record of stellar guest appearances, season 3 will see Gloria and Emilio Estefan grace the set when Rogelio attempts to adapt a Mexican telenovela for American audiences. "They're Rogelio's second-best friends," Urman explains of the characters the Estefans play. "He calls in a favor that's been 20 years in the making, and that's how they come."

And while there's plenty in the way of playful moments, socially aware scenes, and heartwarming plotlines in upcoming episodes, one thing is certain: Rodriguez won't hesitate to turn on the tears if required. "It makes me excited to work harder and try to stretch Jane more," she reflects. "It allows me moments where I can see my real strength." ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY C. MOLLY SMITH

ROBERT VOETS/THE CW

“

I FEEL SO MUCH **PRESSURE**. YOU WANT TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE UNCOVERING NEW THINGS AND MIXING CHARACTERS UP IN A WAY THAT FEELS **NATURAL**." —CREATOR JENNIE SNYDER URMAN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Q+A

MATT LEBLANC OF *Man With a Plan*

⊙ | NEW COMEDY | OCT. 24 | 8:30PM | CBS

MATT LEBLANC IS SAYING goodbye to *Episodes* after one more season, but he still plans to nail laughs on TV. The 49-year-old *Friends* alum (and *Top Gear* host) stars on the CBS family comedy *Man With a Plan* as Adam, a contractor who takes on more parenting responsibility of his three kids when wife Andi (*Yes, Dear*'s Liza Snyder) goes back to work. The show also returns him to the multicamera format that made him famous. EW caught up with LeBlanc to hear about his *Plan* and to see, you know, how he's doin'. —DAN SNIERSON

Episodes is an edgier cable comedy. What appealed to you about doing a network family comedy?

Episodes was a lot of fun, but that was single camera, so now coming back and doing a multicamera show in front of an audience—in a way I feel like I'm home again.... The schedule is good if you have kids. I'm home for dinner every night. I can help my daughter with her homework. When I met with [series creators Jackie and Jeff Filgo], I had an idea that I wanted to play a family guy. I haven't done that before. I'm almost 50. It seems like the right time to shift gears into that.

How does your parenting style differ from Adam's?

Adam's a little more of a bull in a china shop. I've been doing it longer. And I don't make as many mistakes as I used to. Everybody makes mistakes. That's what makes it fun.

Jenna Fischer starred as your wife in the pilot but was replaced with Liza Snyder. Why the switch?

Jenna's a good actor. She did a good job. The network felt like the chemistry wasn't right between her and I, and that decision was above my pay grade. Liza Snyder is really funny and fantastic and tough.... She's great with the kids, even though she doesn't have kids. She's got enough sitcom experience so she knows what she's doing. She knows her way around a joke.

Kevin Nealon plays your brother. What's one thing you have learned about him since you started working together?

I didn't know he was as tall as he is. The lighting department has to adjust the lights because he's always casting a shadow. And he has the innate ability to smell where the joke should be. He's just got this rhythm of speech that's fun to listen to.

You play an exaggerated version of Matt LeBlanc on _Episodes_. What is the most Matt LeBlanc thing about Adam?

He's a guy's guy. He's a contractor; I was a carpenter. He likes cars. We talked about having a project car in the garage to have a man-cave thing and take story lines in there.

James Burrows, who directed the first few episodes of *Friends*, is directing the first few episodes of this. What's the first thing he said to you when you were back on set?
"Oh, I thought you were doing construction these days." [*Laughs*] I fought to go after Jimmy. He's a great problem identifier and a great problem solver. He has a great ability to establish characters. "Say this line with an activity and be doing this... and with this one, don't have anything in your hand." You go out on show night with supreme confidence in your choice because if Jimmy's behind it and says, "Yeah, that's the funniest way to do that," then, okay, that is the funniest way to do that.

You're going to be asked a lot about guest appearances by the *Friends* cast. Would you sum up the situation as "They'll be there for you" or "We're on a break"?
We're on a break. Because there's no plan to have anything like that. The most logical one would be Matthew [Perry] because he's on another CBS show [*The Odd Couple*] and they're right next door, but there hasn't been any talk for any of that yet. There's been a lot of *questions* about that...

What's the strangest place that anyone has brought up *Friends* to you?
I was in the Atlas Mountains in Morocco, shooting a thing for *Top Gear*. I mean, we were far away from civilization. And these people were wearing robes, and they live in caves and stuff. They called me Joey and said "How you doin'?" in a really butchered accent. It was like, "Oh, *wow*. Did not see that one coming." The show is everywhere. It still holds up.

LEBLANC: BJORN IOOSS/TRUNK ARCHIVE; *MAN WITH A PLAN*: SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

Grace Kaufman, Hala Finley, Matthew McCann, Liza Snyder, and Matt LeBlanc on *Man With a Plan*

INSIDE THE WRITERS' ROOM

The Big B

SEASON 10 | SEPT. 19 | 8PM | CBS

WHO'S GOING TO STEAL Penny (Kaley Cuoco) and Leonard's (Jonny Galecki) thunder? Ahead of the duo's vow redo, Leonard's dad (Judd Hirsch) may have slept with Sheldon's mom (Laurie Metcalf), throwing a wrench in the festivities. "Some version of it will happen," EP Steven Molaro promises. "It may not be the one they expected, but we will make it to a wedding." Leonard's not the only one with family tension, as Penny's mother (Katey Sagal) and drug-addict brother (Jack McBrayer) arrive for the big day with their own set of issues. Moving forward, the geeky gang is in for some big changes: Bernadette (Melissa Rauch) and Howard (Simon Helberg) prepare to welcome a baby. "We've known for years that she didn't plan on having children, and the reality of all this is starting to sink in," Molaro says. The boys face the terrifying timing of the Air Force, specifically Captain Williams (Dean Norris), inquiring about their guidance-system project, and Amy (Mayim Bialik) plans a new experiment when it comes to the living situation. "A good way to trick Sheldon [Jim Parsons] into doing things is by framing it in terms of science," Molaro says. So how do the *Big Bang* writers spin funny-nerdy story lines for nine seasons and counting? Here, they give us an inside look at their process.

—NATALIE ABRAMS

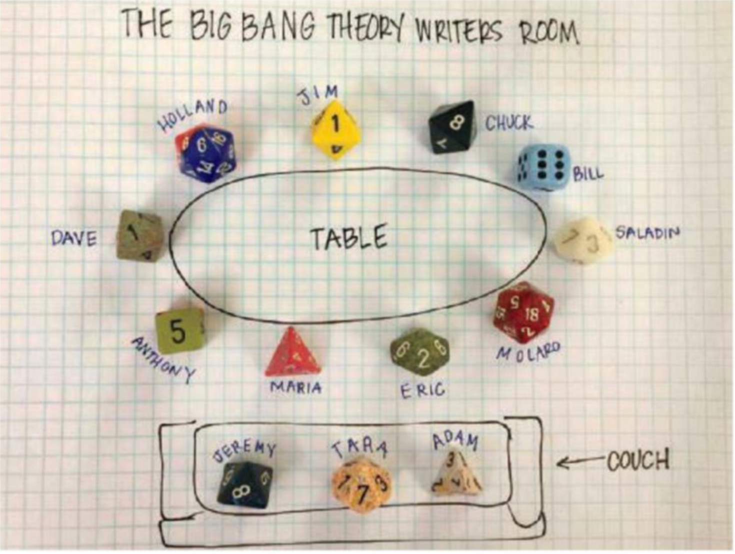
(MOVES TO THURSDAYS ON OCT. 27)

Kunal Nayyar, Johnny Galecki, Simon Helberg, and Jim Parsons

THE BIG BANG THEORY: SONJA FLEMMING/CBS; PIZZA: PETR MALYSHEV/ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; *DRAKE AND JOSH*: NICKELODEON; KEVIN SUSSMAN: MONTY BRINTON/CBS; CINNAMON: MICHAEL YARISH/CBS; COTTON CANDY: GETTY IMAGES

WRITERS' ROOM PROFILE

1 Draw a simple bird's-eye-view diagram of the room.



2 What topic do the writers argue over most?

We didn't know, but it turns out its this question.

3 How often is the word *bazinga* used in the room?

At least five times a day.
BAZINGA – never ever.

4 What TV show does everyone *need* to stay current on?

The Shadow. We like to listen to radio dramas and paint pictures with our minds.

5 The three most commonly ordered delivery dishes:

Zankou chicken and pizza. And once we got a durian fruit but it smelled so bad the Warner Brothers fire department showed up thinking there was a gas leak (this actually happened)

(Most likely to delay the order due to indecision: ____*____)

* anyone delaying the order will be fired.

ang Theory

6 **What TV show gets referenced most?**

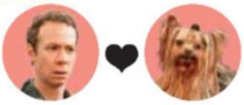
We want to say StarTrek, in reality Drake and Josh.

7 **What do you do when you reach a stalemate or writer's block?**

Take time out from writing the remaining 23 episodes to answer a questionnaire for EW.

8 **Which characters on your show do you ship?**

Stuart and Cinnamon the dog, but CBS will not allow us to pursue this.



9 **The typical volume level of the room (on a scale of 1–10):**

3, It is quiet. Once, Maria got yelled at for eating wasabi peas too loud.

10 **When does happy hour start? Is there a signature cocktail?**

We don't drink in the room, but if we did it would be bourbon rocks.

11 **Which of you took Intro to Geology in college?**

For some reason Dave did. He explained why and we still don't understand.

12 **What's one of your room traditions?**

Everyday we come in to find a fun, new desktop image on the writers room computer screens. Adam does it, but we like to believe it's elves.

13 **What's the toy du jour that can't leave the writers' room table?**

A cotton candy machine that we got to replace the old cotton candy machine that we set on fire trying to make cotton candy out of Cold-EEZE.

New & Returning Shows

MONDAY

DANCING WITH THE STARS

▶ | *SEASON 23* | 8PM | ABC

The Olympics made the *DWTS* recruiting process a lot easier this fall: Headline-grabbing swimmer Ryan Lochte and gymnast Laurie Hernandez will join celebs like *Taxi*'s Marilu Henner, *The Brady Bunch*'s Maureen McCormick, Babyface, and Vanilla Ice in the ballroom. "We're in a very fortunate position coming off the Olympics," says EP Rob Wade. "There are a lot of good names in the zeitgeist." Thankfully, the gold medalists will arrive in superior shape: Wade is planning an unprecedented opening number for the premiere that will also serve as a welcome-back for pros Cheryl Burke and Maksim Chmerkovskiy (who haven't competed in a while) and six-time winner Derek Hough (who took off last season to prep for an upcoming role on Broadway). **SEPT. 12**

GOTHAM

▶ | *SEASON 3* | 8PM | FOX

Gotham's second season was focused on its villains, but the show is shifting its lens this year to look at how the city affects its heroes. "It's something we wanted to explore further: What makes heroes heroes, what makes villains villains, and what about Gotham changes people and drives good guys to the dark side?" exec producer Ken Woodruff says. One of those heroes, Jim Gordon (Ben McKenzie), is no longer with the GCPD when season 3 jumps six months into the future. "Gordon's a bounty hunter.... He's living a sparse life, collecting the dough and drinking a lot," McKenzie says. It seems that Gordon's attempt to win Lee (Morena Baccarin) back did not go well. As McKenzie puts it, "He's got a tear in his beer." **SEPT. 19**

THE VOICE

▶ | *SEASON 11* | 8PM | NBC

First-time *Voice* coaches Alicia Keys and Miley Cyrus come out of the gate playing to win in the blind auditions. "We've never experienced anything like this: Two new coaches step right in like they've been doing this for years," says Blake Shelton, who admits to underestimating how idolized the women were. The country singer is used to having a hard time recruiting artists onto his team, but it was a new challenge for Adam Levine, who routinely found himself losing out to Keys and Cyrus. "It was so much fun to watch him struggle like I have for the last 10 seasons," says Shelton. **SEPT. 19**

THE VOICE Adam Levine, Miley Cyrus, Alicia Keys, and Blake Shelton

KEVIN CAN WAIT

▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | 8:30PM | CBS

Kevin James plays a retired cop with an attractive wife and kids, not a deliveryman with an attractive wife and *no* kids. But the star understands if viewers still think his new character, Kevin, seems awfully similar to Doug Heffernan from *The King of Queens*. "I do get it. No one wants to do the same, exact thing. That's always the challenge," admits James, who stars opposite Erinn Hayes. "But I don't want to be put too far away so no one can identify with me. I'm looking forward to this." So is CBS' Les Moonves, who actually took it personally that James didn't come to his network first with the idea. "Les walked in and said, 'Kevin, what are you doing to me, pitching the show around town!'" EP Rock Reuben recalls. "He said, 'We're family! I feel like you're cheating on me! I want it!'" **SEPT. 19; MOVES TO 8PM ON OCT. 24**

KEVIN CAN WAIT Kevin James and Erinn Hayes

2 BROKE GIRLS

▶ | *SEASON 6* | 9PM | CBS

"Cupcakes aren't as fresh as they were six years ago," says showrunner Michelle Nader. With no interest in stale story lines (or cakes), this season Max (Kat Dennings) and Caroline (Beth Behrs) are set to open a dessert bar and embrace the dating scene. Romance "is a new element that they're ready to explore," says Nader. For Max and lawyer Randy (Ed Quinn), exploration means a long-distance, device-based relationship. Cue the sexting mishaps. Still, Nader says, "what we really want is for the girls to have a success this year." Their new business opens with guest appearances by 2 Chainz, Andy Dick, and alcohol. But for those worried about the show's integrity amid all this change, don't be. The girls will, of course, remain broke. **OCT. 10**

LUCIFER

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 9PM | FOX

His father may be God, but Lucifer (Tom Ellis) is all about mommy issues in season 2. After escaping hell in the finale, Lucifer's mother, Charlotte (Tricia Helfer), arrives with a goal that will cause an even deeper divide between him and his brother Amenadiel (DB Woodside). "What Mom wants is going to break Lucifer's heart," exec producer Ildy Modrovich says, teasing that her arrival will make for great fodder in the Prince of Darkness' therapy sessions. "She watched as he was cast out of heaven and stood by and did nothing, so he's got this resentment towards her," Ellis explains. Lucifer's lady troubles spill over to his dynamic with Decker (Lauren German). "These two characters care deeply about each other, but they're reluctant to tell that to each other," Ellis says. Sounds like they both need counseling. **SEPT. 19**

THE VOICE: TRAE PATTON/NBC; *KEVIN CAN WAIT*: DAVE GIESBRECHT/CBS

GOOD COP.
CRAZY GOOD COP.
NEW FOX SERIES
LETHAL WEAPON
WEDNESDAYS
SEPT 21 FOX

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TIMELESS

NEW DRAMA | OCT. 3
| 10PM | NBC

ON NBC'S ACTION-ADVENTURE series created by Eric Kripke and Shawn Ryan, history-hopping heroes Lucy (Abigail Spencer), Wyatt (Matt Lanter), and Rufus (Malcolm Barrett) pursue time-traveling villain Flynn (Goran Višnjić) as he tries to change critical historical events for a mysterious purpose. Each episode takes them to a new time and place where they must stop Flynn without affecting history themselves. (The butterfly effect is, well, a *timeless* struggle for time travelers.) "It's a fun way to run a show," Kripke says. "[The characters] are basically chasing after a violent terrorist in the middle of a museum where they can't knock over anything." Here, Kripke and production designer John Marcynuk share a sneak peek at three upcoming exhibits the crew must protect. —*SHIRLEY LI*

Malcolm Barrett, Matt Lanter, and Abigail Spencer

THE ASSASSINATION OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN *(1865)*

To re-create Ford's Theatre for the second episode, in which Lucy must contend with whether she's willing to let Lincoln die, Marcynuk's team tried to find a building in Vancouver that could imitate the infamous location. And when they couldn't, they went ahead and built their own. "What's even more insane is later I got the email saying, 'So we can tear down Ford's Theatre, right?'" Kripke recalls. "It's just amazing to me we're going to this much trouble for a single episode."

RAT PACK-ERA LAS VEGAS *(1962)*

For the third hour, in which the trio meet Judith Campbell—the rumored mistress of Frank Sinatra, JFK, and Chicago mobster Sam Giancana—production populated a casino set with 50-year-old slot machines and blackjack tables, and inserted a sleek 1963 Impala as a nod to Kripke's previous series *Supernatural*. Even Marcynuk felt displaced in time. "I got lost in a sea of '60s people," he says. "I felt like a ghost, walking in the past. It was magical."

NAZI GERMANY IN WORLD WAR II *(1944)*

After Kripke and Ryan learned James Bond author Ian Fleming was operating behind enemy lines during WWII, they decided to set the spy-thriller-themed fourth ep at Castle Varlar, where Nazi leaders and scientists threw a champagne-fueled party while launching rockets toward Belgium. There, Fleming (Sean Maguire) takes an interest in Lucy and winds up helping the time travelers on their mission. Good for them: After all, 007 never fails...right?

TIMELESS (TOP): JOE LEDERER/NBC; *TIMELESS*: SERGEI BACHLAKOV/NBC (3)

GAME CHANGER.
BAKER
43
NEW FOX SERIES
PITCH
THURSDAYS
SEPT 22 FOX

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MARY + JANE Scout Durwood and Jessica Rothe

SCORPION

⊙ | *SEASON 3* | 9PM | CBS

Walter (Elyes Gabel) is in for a rude awakening when he shows up in Lake Tahoe to profess his love to Paige (Katharine McPhee). "It goes beyond what his worst expectations could've been," says EP Nicholas Wootton. After his romantic gesture fails, the emotionally stunted genius endeavors to endear himself to Paige by using his 197 IQ to solve problems normal people face, like condiments falling off hot dogs. Thus, the U-Dog—a canoed-out hot dog that allows for equal distribution of toppings—is born. However, ketchup stains will be the least of Walter's problems when he's accidentally launched into space early in the season." It's a very, very, extremely emotional episode that has a lot of the Waige stuff everybody's been looking for," says Wootton. **OCT. 3; MOVES TO 10PM ON OCT. 10**

THE ODD COUPLE

⊙ | *SEASON 3* | 9:30PM | CBS

"We're kinda doing a complete 180," says EP Bob Daily. "The theme for this season is role reversal." So Oscar (Matthew Perry) embarks on a grown-up relationship with Charlotte (Teri Hatcher), meaning he has to figure out how to impress someone who's responsible—and old—enough to employ a babysitter, rather than work as one. Lucky for us, his grand gestures include having Boys II Men perform for her in the season premiere. On the flip side, Emily (Lindsay Sloane) returns from her summer in London with newfound confidence, so Felix (Thomas Lennon) is forced back into the horrors of dating. "It's going to be a whole new world of Tinder and one-night stands for Felix," says Daily, "He has Oscar as his spirit guide in that new world." We're so sorry, Felix. **OCT. 17**

MARY + JANE

⊙ | *NEW COMEDY* | 10PM | MTV

If you couldn't tell from the show's title and the fact that Snoop Dogg is listed as an EP, we'll make it clear: This show's about weed. The goofy, good-natured comedy follows two women, Paige (Jessica Rothe) and Jordan (Scout Durwood), as they start a marijuana-delivery business in L.A. The vibe is sort of *Broad City* meets *Weeds*, with a healthy dose of hipster-mocking humor. Creators Harry Elfont and Deborah Kaplan (who directed *Can't Hardly Wait* together) said they were inspired by California's loosening pot culture. "It's really kind of exploding, especially in California, with all the dispensaries going up," says Elfont. They knew they were on to something once Mr. Dogg signed on. "Who better to be blessed by, really, if you're making a weed show than Snoop?" Kaplan asks. No one, that's who. **SEPT. 5**

Q+A

HAYLEY ATWELL OF *Conviction*

⊙ | *NEW DRAMA* | OCT. 3
⊙ | 10PM | ABC

IT'S OUT WITH THE SUPER-spy and in with the superbad for Hayley Atwell on the legal procedural drama *Conviction*. The *Marvel's Agent Carter* star ditches Peggy's 1940s adventures for former First Daughter Hayes Morrison's troubled life as a clever, rule-breaking lawyer whose literal get-out-of-jail-free card is to lead the Conviction Integrity Unit, a team charged with investigating possible wrongful incarcerations. The 34-year-old talks tackling a new kind of heroine. —*SHIRLEY LI*

What drew you to this decidedly un-Peggy-like role?

To play someone who is really messy around the edges is interesting to me. Peggy knows who she is. She's got a strong moral compass. Hayes, on the other hand, has been disillusioned [by her past]. She's got a self-destructive streak in her. She's still, at her age, acting out.

How did you prepare for the part? Peggy had to fight to be heard; Hayes gets forced into being a leader to keep her family's name clean.

I've been keeping up to date with what's happening in the political climate and then watching Chelsea Clinton and how she comes across. The trick for me has been to try to be as relaxed as possible. I find that people who have status in a room are incredibly physically relaxed. They don't have to act like they're important.

As a Brit, you also have to nail that American accent. What's your approach to Hayes' voice?

Well, I grew up watching American films and TV shows, so I'm familiar with the sound. I wanted to give her that strength, that clarity that Peggy has, but I didn't want to make her sound so educated she comes off a snob.

You've played Peggy Carter since starring in 2011's Captain America: The First Avenger. How does it feel to leave her behind?

I love Peggy. I would go back to Peggy in a heartbeat.... I felt I built up the stamina from Peggy to know what leading a show meant. It was kind of a vacuum in a fire doing *Agent Carter*. [*Laughs*] I'm a little bit calmer on this one.

MARY + JANE: KAT MARCINOWSKI/MTV; CONVICTION: GIOVANNI RUFINO/ABC

There is a fate worse than death.
NEW FOX SERIES
THE EXORCIST
FRIDAYS SEPT 23 FOX

REINVENTING…

SEASON 2 | OCT. 10 | 8PM | THE CW

Supergirl

Melissa Benoist

SUPERGIRL HAS A NEW home, and with it new opportunities for season 2. While the show's move from CBS to The CW won't mean major plot changes, shifting production from L.A. to Vancouver will alter the show aesthetically—for the better. "It would've started to feel very small if we continued in L.A.," EP Andrew Kreisberg says of the constraints of shooting largely in a studio versus having all of the outdoor locations that the Canadian city offers. "That was one of the reasons we made the decision to move, so that we could get scope and go out in the streets. So yes, it might be a little rainy once in a while, and we might see her breath, but it's going to be worth it because the show is actually going to feel bigger." The series is also excited to let its geek flag fly, homing in on comic-book-inspired elements rather than going broad for the CBS audience. "That was less a function of the [network] switch and more out of our own confidence in what we were doing," Kreisberg says. "Everybody had an opinion on what a female superhero should do, be, and say. We all got locked into answering that question a lot at the early stages."

As *Supergirl* finds its footing, so too will Kara (Melissa Benoist), who feels self-assured in the superhero department, if not yet in personal and professional matters. Many co-workers at *CatCo* magazine are vying to fill the power vacuum surrounding the departure of Cat Grant (Calista Flockhart, now a recurring guest star), but Kara will have Super-cousin Clark Kent (Tyler Hoechlin) on hand for counsel as the show acknowledges there's a whole universe of aliens, not just Kryptonians. And those aren't the only new faces to expect in season 2. —NATALIE ABRAMS

MEET THE SUPER FRIENDS

✦ ✦ ✦

Along with a new network, *Supergirl* is introducing a host of characters this fall

SUPERMAN/ CLARK KENT
Tyler Hoechlin
After both Supers show up to the same crisis, the duo will finally spend QT together—which Kara's sister Alex (Chyler Leigh) struggles with.

PRESIDENT OLIVIA MARSDIN
Lynda Carter
The former Wonder Woman helps the show get political when she flies in to play POTUS. "We can't believe she said yes," Kreisberg says of the casting.

MON-EL
Chris Wood
The mysterious occupant of the pod hails from Daxam and helps fulfill Kara's original mission of looking out for Kal-El. "Now she has somebody to mentor," Kreisberg says.

MISS MARTIAN
Sharon Leal
The Red Planet native helps J'onn J'onzz (David Harewood) embrace becoming the Martian Manhunter, giving him a tie to Mars he's been lacking for the last 300 years.

MAGGIE SAWYER
Floriana Lima
The influx of aliens attracts the attention of detective Maggie Sawyer, who works for the National City Police. "She's a strident advocate for alien rights," Kreisberg says.

MONDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Chancellor Agard, Samantha Highfill, Ruth Kinane, Ray Rahman, and Lynette Rice

SUPERGIRL: ROBERT FALCONER/THE CW; HOECHLIN: DAVE MANGELS/GETTY IMAGES; CARTER: JEFFREY MAYER/WIREIMAGE.COM; WOOD: MATT WINKELMEYER/GETTY IMAGES; LEAL: TIFFANY ROSE/GETTY IMAGES; LIMA: MIKE WINDLE/GETTY IMAGES

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E!
Esquire NETWORK
ESPN
food network
FS1
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New Drama

THIS IS US

- SEPT. 20
- NBC
- 10PM

By *Dan Snierson* @DANSNIERSON

Photograph by *Peter Yang*

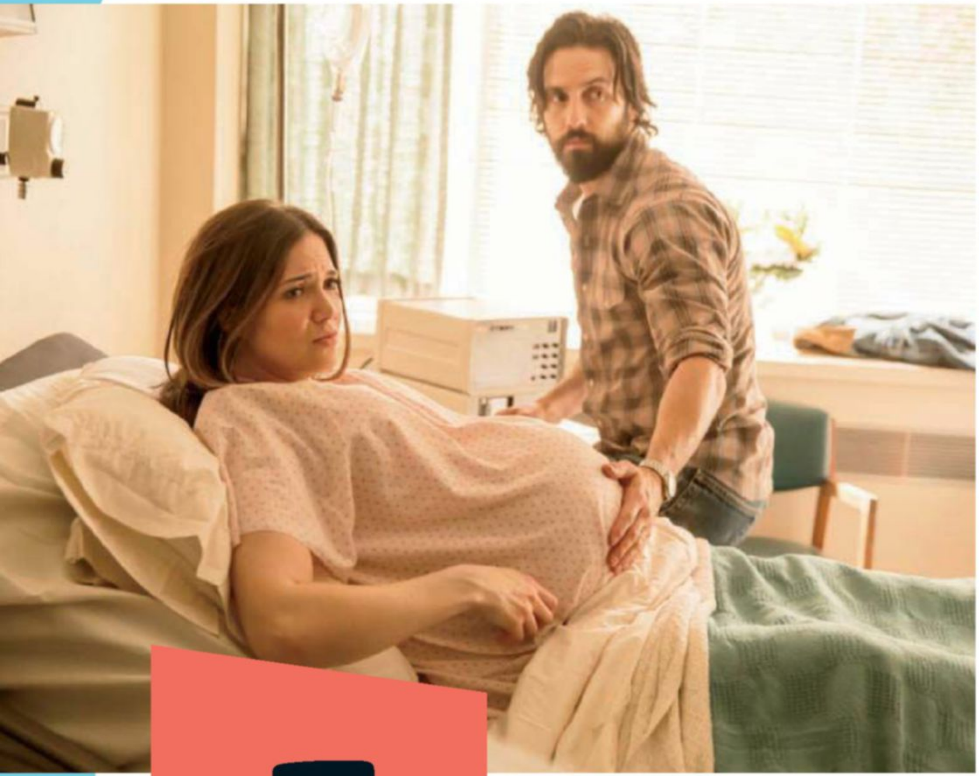
FALL TV
PREVIEW
2016

Mandy Moore and Milo Ventimiglia photographed on Aug. 22, 2016, on the L.A. set

TUESDAY

CONTENTS

Atlanta P. 52 ✦ Brooklyn Nine-Nine P. 54 ✦ The Middle P. 54 ✦ NCIS P. 54 ✦ Scream Queens P. 54 ✦ Bull P. 55 ✦ Teen Wolf P. 56
American Housewife P. 57 ✦ New Girl P. 57 ✦ Fresh Off the Boat P. 57 ✦ Good Behavior P. 57 ✦ No Tomorrow P. 58 ✦ The Real O'Neals P. 58
Aftermath P. 58 ✦ Chicago Fire P. 58 ✦ Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D. P. 60 ✦ NCIS: New Orleans P. 60 ✦ The Flash P. 60



WOYZECK
The
Man

I

IT'S MORNING RUSH HOUR IN THE PEARSON HOUSEHOLD. REBECCA (MANDY Moore) hustles around the kitchen, managing breakfast for her boisterous children. Husband Jack (Milo Ventimiglia) zooms into the room, searches for some coffee, and pumps up the little ones with a sweet call-and-response family cheer: "First came...ME! And Dad said...GEE! Then came...ME! And Mom said...WEEE!" ✸ We can't share the rest of that chant. Or divulge what one kid is teasing another about. Or explain why there's a whiff of marital tension. Or even describe the overbearing-parent dynamic. But we can tell you that this quotidian breakfast scene will vibrate with significance when you see it. "There's *a lot* going on here," stresses Moore. "It's a show that definitely will break your heart," sums up Ventimiglia, "but also kind of reach through and give it a hug at the same time." ✸ This is *This Is Us*, the NBC dramedy that's one of, if not *the* most anticipated new series of the fall, according to critics and tens of millions of views of the show's trailer, which teems with touchy-feels, optimism, and ache, plus a glimpse of Ventimiglia's bare butt. The ambitious series follows a disparate group of 36-year-olds who share the same birthday. There are no government conspiracies to untangle, no scandals to be spun, no murders to get away with—these are just people on the precipice of big change, seeking better versions of themselves. ✸ These people would be: Jack and Rebecca, who are dealt a bittersweet hand during the birth of their triplets; Kevin (Justin Hartley), the star of a hacky hit sitcom titled *The Man-ny* who risks it all by quitting his job in a Jerry Maguire-esque meltdown that goes viral; his twin sister/personal assistant, Kate (Chrissy Metz), who is pledging to change her life and shed weight while trying out a romance; and Randall (Sterling K. Brown), a perfectionist businessman/family man who suddenly finds himself tracking down his biological father, who abandoned him as a baby. How exactly these people are connected is something that won't reveal itself right away, but when it does, it's as much feel-good realization as it is game-changing jolt. ✸ "That initial kernel was me looking to my right, center, and left at emails and Facebook updates from friends, and I was like 'Holy s---, we're all the same age and our lives could not be more different!'" says series creator (and *Crazy, Stupid, Love* screenwriter) Dan Fogelman of the show, which reunites him with *Crazy* directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa. "Some people have four kids, and other

(PREVIOUS SPREAD) STYLING: HALA BAHMET; HAIR: MICHAEL REITZ; MAKEUP: ZOE HAY; (THIS PAGE) RON BATZDORFF/NBC (2)

Mondays: Where Handsome Happens!

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Moore and Ventimiglia; Justin Hartley; Susan Kelechi Watson and Sterling K. Brown; Chrissy Metz and Hartley

WATSON AND BROWN: RON BATZDORFF/NBC; METZ AND HARTLEY: PAUL DRINKWATER/NBC

people are unmarried with no kids. People are at the top of their professions, some people are saying, 'I want to make a change before it's too late,' people are getting divorced, people are getting married, people are losing parents, finding parents. So I thought, 'That's a really interesting idea to follow these people who are all the same age.' Then I thought, 'What if even more directly, metaphorically, they were literally exactly the same age?"

He also thought to lace the show with flashbacks of formative moments from these characters' lives as they navigate current crises, so "it's almost like you're the therapist for this group of people," he explains. "You can slowly start to make the connections sitting on your couch, and you're like, 'Oh!'—in the way I can look at pinnacle moments in my life and childhood and go, 'Oh, that's why I'm doing that right now.'"

They're hoping the audience responds with tears and laughs; the dramedy will court both while wearing its life-is-messy-but-it'll-be-okay heart on its irony-free sleeve. (*Parenthood* fans in mourning are likely to find safe refuge here.) In discussing tonal influences, Fogelman—who also wrote *Tangled* and *Cars*, and created such offbeat TV series as *Galavant*—name-checks everything from *Love Actually* to *Terms of Endearment* to special episodes of *Family Ties*. "Some episodes are going to end with these big surprises," he says. "Some are going to end with a huge sense of completion and emotional fulfillment."

Ventimiglia—the *Heroes* alum whose recent roles have skewed dark (*The Whispers*)—responded to the show's you're-not-alone message. "This one felt hopeful," he says. Meanwhile, Moore, who knew Fogelman from her *Tangled* role, was gun-shy from a run of busted pilots. "I was like, 'I just don't know if I have it in my bones anymore to go through this kind of rejection and heartbreak,'" she shares. "But then I read this and I was like, 'Regardless of whether this moves forward, it's so special...'" What also intrigued the cast was Fogelman's desire to take the road less traveled with each character. The story of Randall, who is African-American, will address race, but he also becomes enmeshed in a poignant story when he learns that the dad (Ron Cephas Jones) he has just reconnected with is dying. "How close will you allow yourself to get to someone who's been absent forever, and now may very well be absent again?" asks Brown.

As for Kate, she is battling her weight, but her tale is also one of codependence with her famous brother, as well as a love story with her Hollywood-obsessed boyfriend (Chris Sullivan). "Typically when I'm auditioning for things, the plus-size girl is kind of the butt of the joke," says Metz. "But [here we are] actually getting to her impetus to either want to change or why she is the way that she is.... We all have something that we're not proud of. And whether it's 'I lied to someone,' 'I've gained weight,' 'I messed up my relationship,' 'I never had a relationship with my son or daughter,' all of us can understand that. So that really touches on every level."

Including a level that, as we mentioned, you might not see coming. "My jaw was on the ground," recalls Brown of his reaction when he finished reading the pilot. "There's this sort of mystical, meant-to-be-ness of it all." Fogelman even ended that first script with a note of explanation of how the show will proceed after the revelation and signed off with 'Love, M. Night Fogelman.'

If you're getting a sixth sense that this isn't your ordinary thirtysomething-characters-at-various-crossroads show, you aren't alone. "I've never heard anybody talk like that about a trailer in my life," says Hartley, "except maybe, like, 'This new *Star Wars* trailer looks pretty cool!'" And the show's high-visibility time slot after *The Voice* only ramps up the stakes. "All of a sudden you're like, 'Are they expecting it to launch to Super Bowl numbers?'" quips Fogelman, co-creator of another buzzy fall series, Fox's *Pitch*.

For now the *This Is Us* team is just trying to focus on leaving the right kind of mark. Moore has a colorful metaphor to describe the vibe of the show. "It makes your heart feel just a little bit bruised, but a good bruise," she says. "Where every now and then you push on it to make sure that it still hurts." Save some tissues for *Us* this fall.

> **"IT'S A SHOW THAT WILL DEFINITELY BREAK YOUR HEART, BUT ALSO KIND OF REACH THROUGH AND GIVE IT A HUG AT THE SAME TIME."** —MILO VENTIMIGLIA

DONALD GLOVER

Atlanta | *NEW COMEDY* | SEPT. 6 | 10PM | FX

IT'S AUGUST, JUST A MONTH away from the debut of Donald Glover's new FX series, but Sept. 6 can't come soon enough. It's a day the movie actor (*The Martian*), TV star (*Community*), and musician who performs under the name Childish Gambino has been waiting half a decade for. "It's like when you're pregnant for that long," he says, describing how he feels right at this moment, "and you're like, 'I just wanna meet this person.' I'm at that point. I just want this to be out."

Meet Glover's baby: *Atlanta*. Conceived five years ago while he was shooting *Community*, it follows Earn Marks, a penniless twentysomething managing his up-and-coming rapper cousin Alfred Miles (Brian Tyree Henry) while trying to honor the responsibilities he has to his best friend Van (Zazie Beetz) and the daughter they share. Not only is the 32-year-old Georgia native starring, he is also the showrunner and directed two episodes this season.

Most people know Glover as the earnestly clueless Troy on *Community*, but he actually got his first break as a writer shortly after graduating from NYU in 2006 when he was hired by NBC's *30 Rock*. "Tina [Fey] taught me how to write, but also about the politics of television," says Glover, who departed after the Emmy-winning series' third season. During his five years on *Community*, he did a Comedy Central stand-up special and released two full-length albums. After leaving *Community* in 2013 on the heels of a Grammy nomination, the self-proclaimed Renaissance man could've focused on music full-time, as many expected. Instead, he decided to pitch his long-percolating TV project to the home of *Louie* because he wanted to work with a network that would give him the freedom to make his show on his terms.

After signing a deal with FX in 2013 to develop *Atlanta*, Glover turned to his childhood for inspiration. "*Chappelle's Show* worked because it was really personal, and so I studied that. I studied *The Richard Pryor Show*. I kept trying to think of me in high school," Glover says. "I wanted to make sure it was personal and something that felt like 13-year-old me would enjoy it."

More than anything, with *Atlanta*, Glover wanted to create something very real. It's why his characters use the N-word, why problems rarely get solved, and why the very first episode has a scene depicting police brutality. "I tried really hard on this show to be honest about the language, the way people talk, the way black people are treated, the way women are treated, the way all disenfranchised groups, gay people, are treated," he says. "I feel like a lot of shows are like, 'This is how it should be, and if everybody knew how it should be, things would be that way.' But they're not."

The result is a series that's a far cry from the sitcoms Glover cut his teeth on. Filmed over just eight weeks on location in Atlanta, it more closely resembles his 2013 short film *Clapping for the Wrong Reasons*, which shares *Atlanta*'s dreamlike quality and penchant for narrative digressions. In the pilot, Earn encounters a stranger on a bus who tries to force him to take a bite out of a Nutella sandwich that is never explained. "I tried to

GLOVER: ROBERT ASCROFT/FX; ATLANTA: GUY D'ALEMA/FX

touch on the meander of life," Glover says. "Anytime we would get to a point where it's like, 'That feels like a sitcom,' we would try to not do it." He knew from his time on two NBC comedies and from watching a wide range of television shows that *Atlanta* would have to be something unique if it were to one day be considered a classic.

Glover's commitment to flouting convention is what attracted many of his *Atlanta* collaborators. The show's writers' room is actually a Los Angeles mansion Glover named the Factory (where he also has a recording studio), which he's filled with a mix of established talent like Stefani Robinson (*Man Seeking Woman*) and novices including Glover's younger brother Stephen, who is also a rapper. He also invited Vine personalities like RetroSpectro and Dope Island to drop in. "Donald has always kind of picked people who don't have extensive background in whatever he's trying to make to try to get fresh voices out of it," says Hiro Murai, the music-video director and Childish Gambino collaborator making his TV directorial debut with *Atlanta*.

Beyond the unexpected, Glover hopes his series showcases the underrepresented. "It's more important that we have a coalition of points of view.... I don't want to win an award for having the most black cast of all time. I'd rather change a dynamic," he says. "I think this show will hopefully allow me to get different points of view out in the same way [Tina Fey's] genius point of view helped her lift up other people, including myself. I want to do that for other people."
—***CHANCELLOR AGARD***

Brian Tyree Henry and Donald Glover on *Atlanta*

New & Returning Shows

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE

▶ | *SEASON 4* | 8PM | FOX

When we last saw Holt (Andre Braugher) and Jake (Andy Samberg), they'd relocated to Florida in Witness Protection. Six months later, "they are adapting, each in their own way," reports co-creator Dan Goor. "Holt is a member of a power-walking group with several older ladies, and Jake has frosted tips and wears a sleeveless tank top." Adds Samberg, "The power dynamic shifts, because neither of them have any." Later this fall, you'll see the other detectives head to Florida—plus a *New Girl* crossover—but first you'll meet a passionate U.S. marshal (Maya Rudolph), a den-motherly leader of the power-walkers (Rhea Perlman), and a laid-back boss (Jorma Taccone) at Holt's new minimum-wage job. Of the latter, Goor teases, "No one in the history of television has misjudged someone as badly as he has misjudged Ray Holt." **SEPT. 20**

THE MIDDLE

▶ | *SEASON 8* | 8PM | ABC

The Hecks are always in some type of trouble, and EP Eileen Heisler says you can expect more of the same this year. As Axl (Charlie McDermott) and Sue (Eden Sher) deal with the drama of their senior and sophomore years of college, respectively, Brick (Atticus Shaffer) is trying to navigate his first year of high school by redefining himself...and learning to drive. "You can imagine that's probably going to go pretty well," Heisler says with a laugh. And making things worse: Axl decides to teach him. And the older son gives his parents even more grief as he focuses intently on his love life—which, Heisler says, forces Mike (Neil Flynn) and Frankie (Patricia Heaton) to do some "parental rejiggering." **OCT. 11**

NCIS

▶ | *SEASON 14* | 8PM | CBS

It's impossible to replace Michael Weatherly's Tony DiNozzo, so producers didn't even try. "It's always about looking forward," says EP Gary Glasberg. "We needed to come up with new and fresh ways to move into season 14." Enter Wilmer Valderrama as Nick Torres, an ex–field agent who never resurfaced after a deep-cover assignment years ago, and Jennifer Esposito as special agent Alex Quinn in the new season that picks up shortly after DiNozzo's goodbye. "It's kind of unbelievable," Glasberg admits of the show's longevity. "It's unreal to reach milestones like that. I don't know if we'll ever see it again." **SEPT. 20**

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE Andy Samberg and Rhea Perlman

REINVENTING...

SCREAM

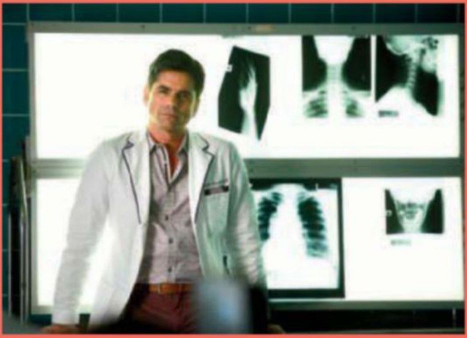
NOTHING IS SCARIER than checking into a hospital...except when that hospital enrolls self-absorbed sorority girls as med students. Emma Roberts, Abigail Breslin, and Billie Lourd's Chanels are back for season 2 of the comic thriller from creators Ryan Murphy, Brad Falchuk, and Ian Brennan, who decided to jump ahead three years and place the characters in a hospital owned and run by ex–dean of students Cathy Munsch (Jamie Lee Curtis). "We had so much fun on *Nip/Tuck* doing these kind of odd patients and we thought it would be fun to bring them into this world," explains Falchuk.

The Chanels were framed for the Red Devil's killings and sent to an asylum in the season 1 finale, and now they've been released thanks to a very timely twist. Explains Falchuk, "Somebody decides to make a Netflix *Making a Murderer* documentary about the Kappa

BROOKLYN NINE-NINE: JORDIN ALTHAUS/FOX; SCREAM QUEENS: MICHAEL BECKER/FOX (3)

QUEENS

| *SEASON 2* | SEPT. 20 | 9PM | FOX



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Billie Lourd, Emma Roberts, and Abigail Breslin; Taylor Lautner and Keke Palmer; John Stamos

murders and so it becomes very clear that these people didn't do it." Munsch gives the Chanels a chance to redeem themselves at her hospital (Keke Palmer's Zayday is also a med student there), but learning time is challenged when a masked killer starts carving up visitors. Among the suspects/potential victims are the mysterious Dr. Cassidy Cascade (Taylor Lautner) and arrogant chief of surgery Brock Holt (John Stamos). "When you're on network television shows, they always want to find some redeeming thing about you," says Stamos. "That topic hasn't come up yet for my character." What has come up, though, are some fairly racy locker-room scenes between Brock and Chanel No. 1's ex-boyfriend Chad Radwell (Glen Powell). "Tomorrow Glen and I are in the locker room together so we're just texting each other all day about what we're getting waxed this afternoon," says Stamos with a laugh. "He lives with Chord Overstreet and said he got Chord to wax his back for him. So I said, 'I'm gonna get Saget over here to wax me.'" Now, that's chilling. —*TIM STACK*

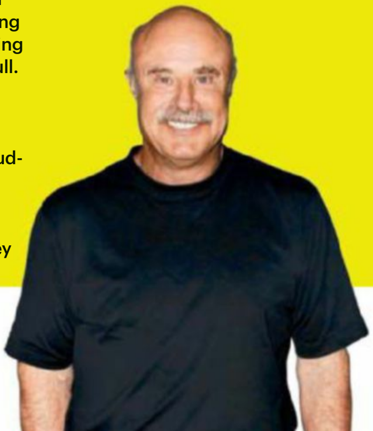
BULL: DAVID M. RUSSELL/CBS; MCGRAW: JASON LAVERIS/FILMMAGIC.COM

Geneva Carr and Michael Weatherly; **BELOW** Dr. Phil McGraw

Bull

| *NEW DRAMA* | SEPT. 20 | 9PM | CBS

BEFORE PHIL MCGRAW became the inimitable Dr. Phil, he was a highly sought-after trial consultant who strategized cases, analyzed juries, and advised lawyers throughout the country. "I took a very different approach," explains McGraw, who describes his reputation as a "gunslinger" who worked with a team of "steely-eyed killers" on roughly 30 cases a year. "By the time we walked in a courtroom, we knew everything about the jury, their personalities," recalls McGraw. "We knew how they would shape our case." It was this chapter in McGraw's career that served as the inspiration for *Bull*, CBS' new drama starring Michael Weatherly as cunning trial consultant Dr. Jason Bull. Penned by Paul Attanasio (*House*) and McGraw, the drama follows Bull and his crack team of experts (including *Six Feet Under*'s Freddy Rodriguez and *Rescue Me*'s Geneva Carr) from his Trial Analysis Corporation as they use high-tech gadgetry and plain ol' human intuition to predict the outcomes of criminal and civil trials. "Dr. Phil's expertise on trial science is second to none. His understanding is pretty wizardlike. That was one thing about this that was fascinating to me," explains Weatherly, who went right from wrapping his last episode of *NCIS* to working on *Bull* last spring. "But the other thing is that Paul co-created *House*, and Dr. House and Bull are maverick, iconoclastic, lone-wolfy guys who are outside-the-box thinkers. *House* was a different take on a medical show, and this is a much different take on a legal show." —*LYNETTE RICE*



RIPPED FROM THE SCRIPT

Teen Wo

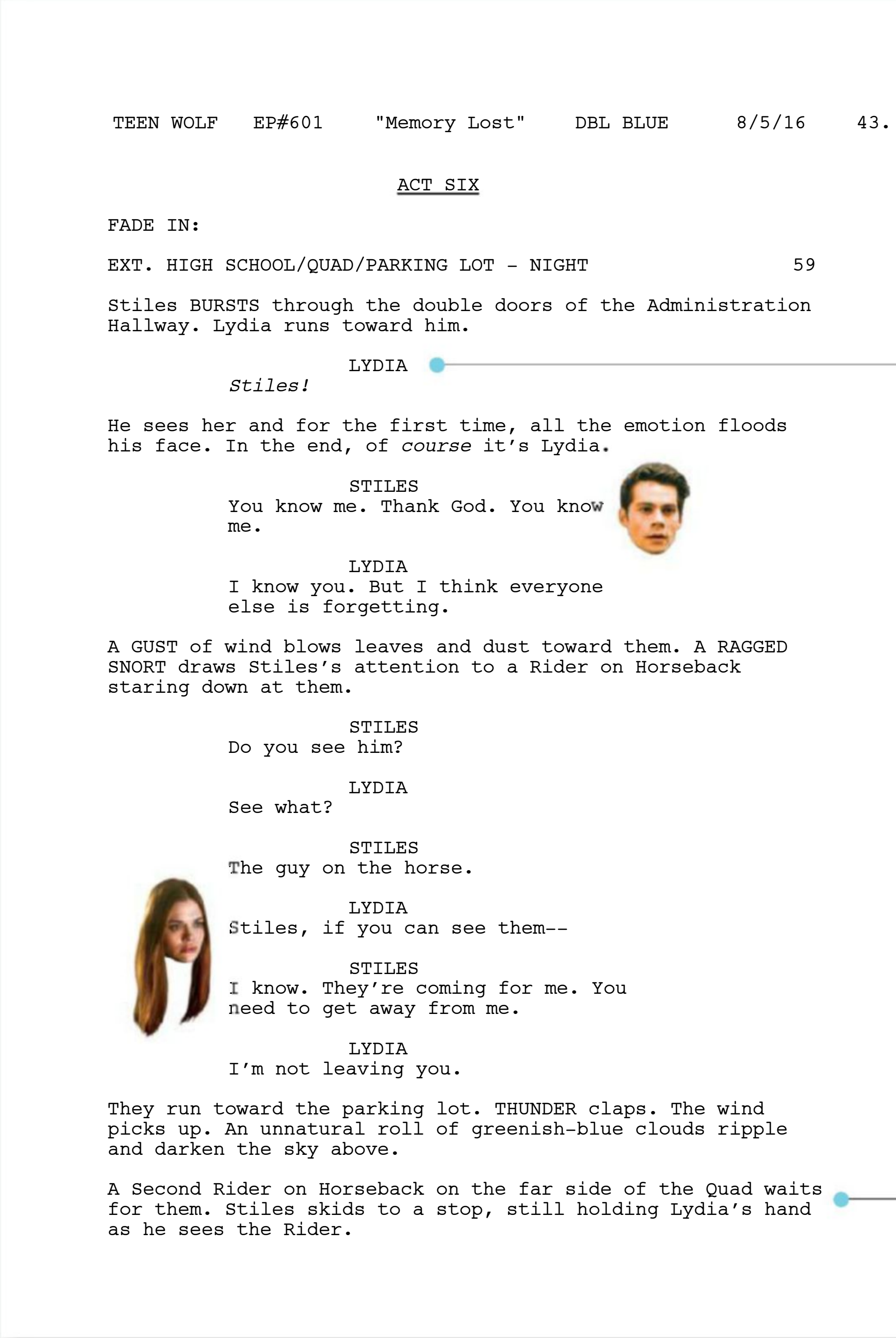
SEASON 6 | NOV. 15 | 9PM | MTV

TEEN WOLF HAS DEALT with all kinds of supernatural villains. From werejaguars to the Nogitsune, there isn't a villain out there that Scott (Tyler Posey) and his pack can't fight. But what if the villain isn't looking for a fight? What if they're just...stuck? That's what showrunner Jeff Davis wanted to explore in the show's final season, which introduces the Ghost Riders, a mysterious group of supernatural henchmen who wield a surprising power and are unable to leave Beacon Hills. "We've had seasons where there's just bodies dropping everywhere, and we wanted to do something frightening but different," Davis says. "What's scarier than death? Being forgotten. Being completely erased."

All it takes is for someone to see the Ghost Riders and they're not only taken, but their entire existence is obliterated. (Not coincidentally, that plot device helped Davis write around Dylan O'Brien's *Maze Runner: The Death Cure* filming schedule.) Here, Davis shares a script page from the season 6 premiere, which reveals one of Stiles' (O'Brien) last moments before he's abducted.

—*SAMANTHA HIGHFILL*

Tyler Posey, Dylan O'Brien, and Holland Roden



TEEN WOLF   EP#601   "Memory Lost"   DBL BLUE   8/5/16   43.

ACT SIX

FADE IN:

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL/QUAD/PARKING LOT - NIGHT   59

Stiles BURSTS through the double doors of the Administration Hallway. Lydia runs toward him.

LYDIA
Stiles!

He sees her and for the first time, all the emotion floods his face. In the end, of *course* it's Lydia.

STILES
You know me. Thank God. You know me.

LYDIA
I know you. But I think everyone else is forgetting.

A GUST of wind blows leaves and dust toward them. A RAGGED SNORT draws Stiles's attention to a Rider on Horseback staring down at them.

STILES
Do you see him?

LYDIA
See what?

STILES
The guy on the horse.

LYDIA
Stiles, if you can see them--

STILES
I know. They're coming for me. You need to get away from me.

LYDIA
I'm not leaving you.

They run toward the parking lot. THUNDER claps. The wind picks up. An unnatural roll of greenish-blue clouds ripple and darken the sky above.

A Second Rider on Horseback on the far side of the Quad waits for them. Stiles skids to a stop, still holding Lydia's hand as he sees the Rider.

After Stiles sees the Ghost Riders, his friends slowly start forgetting him, but it's Lydia who manages to hold on to his memory the longest. "They have something special," Davis says of Stiles and Lydia. "We decided that this is the place to show that they've gone from a simple crush to friends to something deeper."

What does Beacon Hills look like without Stiles? "Almost immediately people will notice something missing," Davis says, "because Stiles is such an indelible part of Beacon Hills." But Davis promises that as early as episode 2, Scott, Malia, and Lydia will come together to realize something's off. "They each realize that something huge is missing in their life and they come to this eventual conclusion it might be a person."

TEEN WOLF: MTV (3); NEW GIRL: RAY MICKSHAW/FOX; AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE: ADAM TAYLOR/ABC

NEW GIRL Max Greenfield, guest star Ayden Mayeri, Hannah Simone, Zooey Deschanel, and Lamorne Morris

NEW GIRL

▶ | *SEASON 6* | 8:30PM | FOX

With Schmidt (Max Greenfield) and Cece (Hannah Simone) married, Nick (Jake Johnson) in a long-distance relationship with Reagan (Megan Fox, who returns later this season), and Winston (Lamorne Morris) still with fellow cop Aly (Nasim Pedrad), the former new girl (Zooey Deschanel) has become the odd roommate out. "Jess is a little bit behind for the first time," showrunner Liz Meriwether says, "but the fact that she's single doesn't mean she isn't moving forward." In fact, she's joined a CrossFit-style gym to take her mind off of Nick—and off of Schmidt and Cece's desire to move out. But no worries, Jess: Greenfield can't imagine the newlyweds leaving the loft just yet. "If they find anything permanent, then it would be a different show," he points out. Spoken like a true True American. **SEPT. 20**

FRESH OFF THE BOAT

▶ | *SEASON 3* | 9PM | ABC

The '90s-set sitcom kicks off far from Orlando—like, Taiwan far. After the soon-to-be-married Uncle Gene (guest star Ken Jeong) absconded with Grandma (Lucille Soong) at the end of last season, Louis (Randall Park) and Jessica (Constance Wu) must take the family to the motherland to get her back. "We pick up as they're going through customs in the Taipei airport," says showrunner Nahnatchka Khan, who promises big things for the episode. "We get to meet Louis' extended family. It's interesting because for Louis and Jessica, they're coming home. But for the boys, they've never been there. It's their first time. As much as they identify with being Asian and Taiwanese, a part of them is not that. So we're excited to explore those themes." Eddie (Hudson Yang), however, might be less excited: "He's just trying to find a fax machine, because all he wants to do is fax his girlfriend back home and give her updates." Ah, young love in the '90s. **OCT. 11**

GOOD BEHAVIOR

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | 9PM | TNT

Downton Abbey's Michelle Dockery is no Lady Mary on this thriller based on a trio of novellas by *Wayward Pines* author Blake Crouch. As con artist Letty Raines, she steals cash, deals drugs, and revels in a life of crime. "It was a no-brainer," co-creator Chad Hodge says of her casting. "Having seen all of *Downton*, I thought if she could do what she did with Lady Mary, she could do anything." **NOV. 15**

AMERICAN HOUSEWIFE

▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | 8:30PM | ABC

"Being an American housewife right now is a real pain in the ass." That's the domestic diagnosis from Sarah Dunn, creator of ABC's new family sitcom about an iron-willed suburban mother (*Mike & Molly*'s Katy Mixon) trying to raise normal kids in an increasingly trendy, hypercritical Connecticut town. Dunn, a former executive story editor on *Spin City* and mother of two, says TV culture has left average mothers in the dust since *Roseanne*. "My two best friends are both stay-at-home moms and we have so much fun, and I always wonder, 'Why is this not on television? Why are we invisible?'... I'm writing a show about that person and trying to make the truth of her life interesting and alive and funny and important." **OCT. 11**

Julia Butters and Katy Mixon

BREAKING BIG

TORI ANDERSON OF

No Tomorrow

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | OCT. 4
▶ | 9PM | THE CW

TORI ANDERSON KNOWS how to seize the day. Ever since she began memorizing Shakespeare monologues at age 5 to compete at a local arts festival in her native Canada, the now-27-year-old actress hasn't been able to sit still. On the small screen, she's played wildly different roles, from a grieving doctor on the teen soap *Open Heart*, to a fairy queen on the children's series *The Other Kingdom*, to an unaging bartender on the sci-fi drama *Killjoys*. "I'm willing to try anything when it comes to taking risks," she says. "I'm an adventure seeker to the max."

But as Evie, the heroine of The CW's end-of-days rom-com *No Tomorrow*, Anderson will have to get used to staying on the sidelines—at least at first. A shy office drone who thrills in making to-do lists more than actually *doing* what's on them, she doesn't begin to *carpe* her *diem* until she meets the charming free spirit Xavier (*Galavant*'s Joshua Sasse), who believes in completing as many bucket-list items as possible before—wait for it—an asteroid hits Earth in exactly eight months and 12 days.

It's an unbelievably grim outlook, but Anderson says the story of Evie and Xavier is anything but. "I read a lot of dark pilots for this season, and this one was so light and fun," she says. "I don't think Evie necessarily knows if the world's gonna end, but she's going to go on this ride with him and see what it's like." Cue pogo sticks, dune buggies, and karaoke bars!

—SHIRLEY LI

THE REAL O'NEALS

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 9:30PM | ABC

When *The Real O'Neals* returns for its sophomore go, things will have calmed down for Kenny (Noah Galvin). "Even though he had come out, had his first gay kiss, and went to prom with a boy, it kind of died down after that, and he wonders what the next year is going to be," showrunner David Windsor says. It certainly won't be quiet for long, as the family comedy will pick up with a chaotic car chase, and Kenny trying to create the first LGBT club at his Catholic high school. More generally, though, the show will see the rest of Kenny's family grow. "The first season really was all about firsts," Windsor explains, speaking to Kenny's announcement and his parents (Martha Plimpton and Jay R. Ferguson) divorcing. "This second season isn't as much about what those first experiences are. It's really about settling into what their new reality is." **OCT. 11**

AFTERMATH

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | 10PM | SYFY

The Copelands are like any other family battling sibling drama, teen angst, and, oh, demonic beasts. It's not the end of the world—just the dawning of a new one. "Heaven and earth collide," says Anne Heche, who plays matriarch Karen. "This family witnesses what it would mean to be there in the beginning," she says. "They're confronting all you could imagine in terms of a new world. Anything is possible, and around the corner." Some corner lurkers include catastrophic storms, meteors, earthquakes, plagues, and supernatural creatures. Luckily, Karen's military background has her crisis-ready. "Her character never reaches for a doorknob," says James Tupper, Heche's real-life partner, who plays her onscreen spouse, Joshua. "She boots the door down." Tupper portrays a professor of cultural anthropology eagerly trying to figure out what the heck is going on. But even after revealing the presence of demons and creatures, Heche says, "I guarantee you won't ever believe what happens next." If flying demons are your guess, you wouldn't be wrong. **SEPT. 27**

CHICAGO FIRE

▶ | *SEASON 5* | 10PM | NBC

Good news: Severide (Taylor Kinney) and Stella (Miranda Rae Mayo) survived her ex-husband's knife attack. Bad news: "Going through something traumatic puts a strain on the relationship," EP Michael Brandt says. They're not the only couple facing new challenges. We haven't seen the last of political consultant Susan Weller (Lauren Stamile), who made a move on Casey (Jesse Spencer) even though he's ready to be a family man with Dawson (Monica Raymund) and foster child Louie. The show will explore their "challenges of being on a fire truck together with a child at home," EP Derek Haas says. The firehouse has its own set of internal issues: Jimmy (Steven R. McQueen) blames Boden (Eamonn Walker) for his brother's death, and that fight will get "about as ugly as possible," Brandt teases. Good thing they're experts at putting out fires. **OCT. 11**

AFTERMATH James Tupper, Julia Sarah Stone, Levi Meaden, and Anne Heche

ANDERSON: J SQUARED PHOTOGRAPHY/THE CW; AFTERMATH: EIKE SCHROTER/AFTERMATH ULC/SYFY

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MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.

▶ | *SEASON 4* | 10PM | ABC

In light of the Sokovia Accords, S.H.I.E.L.D. has gone legit. There's a new director (Jason O'Mara), who tasks Agent Coulson (Clark Gregg) & Co. with tracking down enhanced individuals, which spells trouble for Daisy (Chloe Bennet), who has gone rogue after Lincoln's death. "She's doing anything she can to make up for what she feels is her fault," Bennet says. But her self-imposed exile doesn't necessarily make her a hero. "Part of her nothing-to-lose attitude has allowed her to unleash her power on a level that's much more aggressive," EP Jed Whedon says, teasing she'll cross paths with the Robbie Reyes (Gabriel Luna) incarnation of the flame-licked spirit of vengeance Ghost Rider. "They both operate alone, they both live outside of the law," Whedon says. Time to start shipping #GhostQuake? **SEPT. 20**

MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D. Chloe Bennet

NCIS: NEW ORLEANS

▶ | *SEASON 3* | 10PM | CBS

Special Agent Dwayne "King" Pride (Scott Bakula) and his agents are coming under greater scrutiny from the top. When season 3 opens, Washington, D.C., sends acerbic FBI agent Tammy Gregorio (*Graceland*'s Vanessa Ferlito) to investigate this high-jinks-prone team. "Coming from a wildly different, bureaucratic city like D.C., she'll be able to shine a light on, by contrast, how unbureaucratic and personal our NCIS agents are," says executive producer Brad Kern. And Gregorio's first mission starts off with a bang. In the premiere, they're on the hunt for a sniper during a crowded festival weekend. Later on this season we'll see Pride and Gregorio clash as they orchestrate a "controversial" prison break. Right now, the Big Easy is sounding anything but. **SEPT. 20**

THE *Flash*

▶ | *SEASON 3* | OCT. 4 | 8PM | THE CW

Grant Gustin and Keynan Lonsdale

THOUGHT SEASON 2'S finale that saw Barry Allen (Grant Gustin) change the series' entire timeline by saving his mother's life was nuts? Well, the butterfly effects of that choice are about to get even weirder—as fans of the *Flash* comic well know. In the comics, the twisty, seminal Flashpoint story line finds Barry in an alternate world where his mother is no longer dead and most of the world's heroes are more like villains. Unlike the global scale of the comic, though, the CW series is taking a more personal approach to the changes Barry has wrought. For example, Barry's no longer a hero, he's replaced by new speedster Kid Flash (Keiynan Lonsdale), and his former allies don't really know him—his pal Cisco (Carlos Valdes) is now a showy billionaire, while former nice guy Joe (Jesse L. Martin) is struggling to right wrongs with daughter Iris (Candice Patton).

"Part of Barry's journey is getting these people, who aren't necessarily the best version of themselves, to find their inner hero," EP Andrew Kreisberg says, revealing that there's a ticking clock on Flashpoint as Barry's memories of the old timeline begin to be replaced by the new, forcing him to make a big choice. "We are going to see him start to have some regrets and realize how selfish of a decision it was [to save his mom]," Gustin says. Barry's decision will ultimately bring two new villains into the fray: the yet-to-be-cast Doctor Alchemy and speedster Savitar. It also welcomes back a familiar face, Reverse-Flash (Matt Letscher), who will serve as Barry's conscience after he's tinkered with the timeline, something that will resonate through the rest of the series. "Some things can be fixed, and then some things are broken forever," Kreisberg says ominously.

—*NATALIE ABRAMS*

TUESDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Ruth Kinane, Ray Rahman, Dalene Rovenstine, C. Molly Smith, and Marc Snetiker

MARVEL'S AGENTS OF S.H.I.E.L.D.: JENNIFER CLASEN/ABC; *THE FLASH*: KATIE YU/THE CW

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AFTER AMERICA'S GOT TALENT

WEDNE

Anthony Anderson, Tracee Ellis Ross, Miles Brown, Marsai Martin, Yara Shahidi, and Marcus Scribner photographed on Aug. 11, 2016, on the L.A. set

CONTENTS

Designated Survivor P. 66 ✦ Arrow P. 68 ✦ The Goldbergs P. 68 ✦ Survivor: Millennials vs. Gen X
Chicago P.D. P. 70 ✦ Code Black P. 70 ✦ Frequency P. 70 ✦ Lethal Weapon P. 70 ✦ Rectify P. 73 ✦

SDAY

FALL TV
PREVIEW
2016

Returning Comedy

BLACK-ISH

- *SEASON 3*
- SEPT. 21
- ABC
- 9:30PM

By
Nicole Sperling
@NICSPERLING

Photographs by
Art Streiber

P.68 ✦ Criminal Minds P.68 ✦ Empire P.68 ✦ Law & Order: SVU P.69 ✦ Speechless P.69 ✦ Modern Family P.70 ✦ Blindspot P.70
Queen Sugar P.73 ✦ South Park P.73 ✦ Younger P.73

IT'S A SUNNY SUMMER AFTERNOON ON THE BURBANK set of *black-ish*, and creator Kenya Barris wants to talk about God. The cast has only been back to work on the third season of ABC's critical hit for a few weeks, but Barris is ready to dig in, eyeing these upcoming 24 episodes as his remaining moments to say all he wants to say before his real-life family obligations and other creative ambitions take him away from the day-to-day show-running of the series that has both consumed his life and made him a TV force. ✱ Today's onscreen action centers on Dre (Anthony Anderson) and his fury over an admission by his teenage daughter, Zoey (Yara Shahidi), that she may not believe in a higher power. The subject matter is perfect *black-ish* material: provocative, complicated, and pulled from real life. The genesis of the episode came from a conversation Barris had with his own daughter during a routine car ride when she shared her doubts about her faith. "I thought, 'This is some white s---.' I grew up in the hood. I know murderers who believe in God," says the 43-year-old with a laugh in his spacious office surrounded by balloons and flowers from his birthday celebration earlier in the week. "What I realized [about my daughter] was that this idea came from a sense of entitlement that [my wife and I] gave her. For me growing up, you had to have something above you to give you hope. She didn't need that. Her hope was us." ✱ *Black-ish* began in 2013 as a collaboration between Barris and Anderson, both of whom wanted to do a series about their shared experience raising children in gentrified Los Angeles. Both men grew up in poor neighborhoods. Both were "first-generation successful," as Anderson puts it. Both were raising their children in white neighborhoods and sending them to private schools where they were often the only black kids in their class. (During their first meeting, Barris told Anderson he felt like he went from raising a black family to raising a black-ish family.)

Behind the scenes with the cast of *black-ish*

From day one the mission of the show was to mine their lives for comedic value while never shying away from the thornier issues their families faced. The pilot told Anderson's true story of throwing an actual "bro mitzvah" for his 13-year-old son after he told his dad he didn't feel like he was black and that he wanted a bar mitzvah. On a weekly basis, *black-ish* addresses prickly subjects like gun control and the use of the N-word, but Barris hit the apex of the show's conceit in episode 16 of last season when he wrote the closest thing he promises he will get to "a very special episode." Titled "Hope," the nearly single-scene show featured an honest conversation about police brutality against black people and the resulting social unrest that was playing out across the country. And it all stemmed from Barris' young son asking him why everyone was so angry.

"The night it aired, I knew we tapped into something," says Anderson in his trailer during a short break between scenes. "Our Twitter feed went up 2,500 percent that night, and it sparked a conversation. That's our mission statement: We pride ourselves on bringing up divisive topics and bringing people to the table who have different points of view."

Now the pressure is on for *black-ish*—which this year landed Emmy nominations for Anderson and his costar Tracee Ellis Ross, as well as its first-ever for best comedy series—to maintain the show's nuanced social commentary for season 3, which Barris predicts will be his last running the show.

"I may never get this chance again. I want it to be dope," says Barris. "I asked my family to give me three years for this show, and that's why I really want to make this my year. We have such a talented staff of writers. Maybe next year, it's a little less. I have to go back to my family."

With that in mind, Barris intends to address all the issues that confound him as a father. The third season will tackle class warfare as seen through the eyes of youngest son Jack (Miles Brown), who may or may not be college material but is great at working with his hands. "I feel like there has become a pungency to the word 'blue collar.' People turn their nose up at it," says Barris.

This year will also take a closer look at the Johnson family's closest thing to a voice of reason, Rainbow (Ross), and the challenges she faces both at home and in her professional life with the pending arrival of her fifth child. Popping up this season is *Hamilton*'s Daveed Diggs as her flighty, entitled brother Johan, who's currently on a quest to find himself. To Ross, who's biracial like her character, he's a more-than-welcome addition to the show. "Johan adds a new dynamic that is surprising and fun," says the actress. "I love that we are exploring the being-mixed story more then just being called silly names like Rae Dawn Chong."

And so Barris is shaking up life for the Johnsons in ways big and small: Nepotism will complicate work life for Dre, private school will offer easier access to drugs than Dre and Bow anticipated, the prospect of college will start to loom large for Zoey and Andre Jr. (Marcus Scribner), and twins Jack and Diane (Marsai Martin) will have uneven growth spurts that cause consternation for everyone. But today the family is gathered for the denouement of the God episode. (Sorry—for the sake of spoilers, we can't tell you where, how, or why!) After setting each kid in the scene, director Anton Cropper walks back to the video monitor mumbling, "Why does this feel like my whole career hinges on this one scene?" Then Barris arrives, ready to ensure that the tone packs just the right balance of emotion and humor. It's the highest stakes yet for the show's nascent third season, and he wants it perfect.

The family squeezes together while Anderson tries awkwardly to hug all his children at once to deliver the line "As long as all my babies are okay." It's an emotional beat, but Barris asks him to back off a bit. "You don't have to hug *all* of them," says Barris with a laugh. "Just so it's not so special a moment."

> **"THAT'S OUR MISSION STATEMENT: WE PRIDE OURSELVES ON BRINGING UP DIVISIVE TOPICS AND BRINGING PEOPLE TO THE TABLE WHO HAVE DIFFERENT POINTS OF VIEW."** —ANTHONY ANDERSON

Designated

| **NEW DRAMA** | SEPT. 21 | 10PM | ABC

WHENEVER THE MAJORITY of the country's top leaders are gathered in one place, one member of the president's Cabinet is named the "designated survivor"—someone who stays behind at a secure location, ready to step into the role of Commander-in-Chief should catastrophe arise and all the bigwigs die. (During January's State of the Union address, it was Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson.) Why it took this long to turn such a dramatic doomsday tradition into a TV series is a mystery, but first-time series writer David Guggenheim (*Safe House*) is glad he was the one to do it. "The election year has made it very ripe and relevant, and it was one of those great ideas that was right there for the taking."

Not that it was his first choice to write. While pitching producer Simon Kinberg (*X-Men*) a show about aliens who live among humans, "he was just like, *eh*," Guggenheim recalls. "I was really bummed, so I said here's this other idea I got. I literally wrote it at the end of an email as a 'just a thought.' A year later, here we are. That's what is so insane and surreal about this process."

That and the fact that Kiefer Sutherland agreed to play Tom Kirkman, the lower-level Cabinet member who becomes leader of the free world after an explosion at the Capitol. At first, Guggenheim rolled his eyes at the idea of sending his script to the *24* star. "I was like, 'Oh, sure. It is never going to happen,'" he remembers. But Sutherland, who admits he wasn't looking to return to TV after shooting a new season of *24* for Fox in 2014, said he took one look at Guggenheim's script and realized he may be holding "the next 10 years of my life."

The actor had just a few notes. Even though Cabinet members are well aware of the designated-survivor tradition, Sutherland suggested that Kirkman be completely unaware of it when he receives the call for duty. "It illustrates this guy is not a real political animal," he says of Kirkman, a bleeding heart who works for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. "It shows he hasn't been around that long."

Sutherland also made sure that his character sports a very unpresidential hoodie and a pair of nerdy glasses when he and his wife (*Californication*'s Natascha McElhone) discover how their comfortable life with two kids is about to turn upside down.

MOBILE COMMAND CENTER

Survivor

CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT Kiefer Sutherland, Natascha McElhone, and Darlene Cooke; Sutherland; Sutherland

BEN MARK HOLZBERG/ABC (4)

“It's all about showing Kirkman's evolution,” says Sutherland of his less-than-hip appearance. “The payoff for the glasses isn't going to be now; it just gives me somewhere to go. I learned that from *24*. You're better having too much crap on that you can dump, because you never know where the story is going to go.”

Well, Guggenheim has an idea. He says he plans to reveal who blew up the Capitol by season's end, and he hopes that most of the intrigue will come from Kirkman's struggle to stay on top. The cast that will be aiding and thwarting him along the way includes Maggie Q (*Nikita*) as an FBI agent assigned to investigate the suspected terrorist attack, Kal Penn as a White House speechwriter (see sidebar), and Adan Canto as the president's chief of staff, who immediately plots to usurp Kirkman's authority. “Everyone is going to be gunning for this guy,” Guggenheim says. “It's not that they're malicious. I think people genuinely feel like this guy doesn't deserve the presidency. How could this guy be leading us? So he's got to earn that trust and prove to himself, his family, and to everyone else that he's the right person for the job.” Gee, that sounds awfully familiar. —*LYNETTE RICE*

KAL PENN REPORTS FOR DUTY

✦✦✦

From *White Castle* to the White House, the former POTUS staffer brings his real-life experience to the small screen

KAL PENN (*HAROLD & Kumar*) is thoroughly convincing as Seth Wheeler, the speechwriter–turned–unexpected right hand to newly appointed President Kirkland on *Designated Survivor*. He knows from where he acts: In real life, the 39-year-old worked for President Obama from 2009 to 2011 in the Office of Public Engagement. So just how much did one job inform the other? —*LYNETTE RICE*

Did you actually work in the West Wing with President Obama?

I worked in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building that's on the White House grounds. We would shuttle back and forth to the West Wing because that's where all of our bosses were.

Did you, like your *Designated Survivor* character, run into the president in the bathroom?

No, although it's funny—a lot of people don't realize the White House is an incredibly small place, so you do sometimes run into folks in the hallway. But not in the bathroom, thankfully. I didn't have that experience.

You're also listed as a consultant on *Designated Survivor*. What does that entail?

There are things in any world that you just want a certain amount of accuracy. Like, how many staffers would be in a particular room for a particular event? Would there be a Secret Service agent at this particular place? How's the president addressed in certain settings? A lot of what I suggest is logistical stuff to flavor the world, to make it feel a little more authentic.

When you were in government, did you miss acting?

This is gonna sound cheesy, and I certainly don't mean it to be cliché, but I was so honored and humbled to walk into that building every day and have the chance to serve under this president. I certainly viewed it as a sabbatical for a couple of years, which is not to say I wouldn't go back and work in public service again if I decided to take another sabbatical. But the jobs are so completely different. I got a lot of undue attention just because I happened to be an actor, but there are literally hundreds of people from different walks of life who do the same thing.

New & Returning Shows

ARROW

▶ | *SEASON 5* | 8PM | THE CW

As Oliver Queen (Stephen Amell) has become a full-fledged hero (in public as mayor and in private as Green Arrow), the Emerald Archer will be contemplating the empire he's built. "We're dramatizing Oliver's desire to evolve, but this concept of legacy keeps threatening to pull him back to the early days," says EP Marc Guggenheim, teasing there will be callbacks to season 1 as Oliver faces off against a mysterious new villain, Prometheus, whom he "bears a measure of responsibility for the creation of." But that's not the only big bad he'll be tackling. In this season's flashbacks—the show's last—Oliver will rise in the ranks of the Russian Bratva, pitting him against new nemesis Kovar (Dolph Lundgren). "We're trying to introduce a more adrenaline-fueled flashback story this year," Guggenheim says. Just as he's getting tested by the Bratva in the past, Oliver is testing his new recruits in the present, including Curtis (Echo Kellum) and Artemis (Madison McLaughlin). Time to expand the Arrow cave! **OCT. 5**

ARROW Stephen Amell

THE GOLDBERGS

▶ | *SEASON 4* | 8PM | ABC

Despite the vague "1980-something" limbo of ABC's retro sitcom, one character is speeding forward next season: Eldest daughter Erica (Hayley Orrantia) definitively enters her senior year, and with a more important mission than just finding a safety school. "The biggest story line Erica has this year is dealing with Geoff and Evelyn," says Orrantia, whose character was too late in realizing her feelings toward admirer Geoff (Sam Lerner) before he moved on with Evelyn (Allie Grant) in the season finale. "The whole season is Erica either trying to get over it or trying to break them up." And there's an even bigger hurdle: Smother-mother Beverly (Wendi McLendon-Covey) gets her teaching credential and is now working as a substitute. Orrantia says, "Beverly was already taking over the kids' lives from home, and now she's going to be around them 24/7—Lord only knows what's going to happen." If only Erica could fast-forward even faster. **SEPT. 21**

SURVIVOR: MILLENNIALS VS. GEN X

▶ | *SEASON 33* | 8PM | CBS

Host Jeff Probst says the network had one big concern when he pitched the idea for the upcoming season of the granddaddy of reality shows. "The only debate with CBS was when I pitched it and said, 'How about Gen X vs. Millennials?' And they said, 'Terrible name. It's Millennials vs. Gen X.'" Once that was settled, 20 newbies were shipped off to Fiji to begin their big generational-divide competition for a million dollars. "The theme is fascinating," says Probst. "People are going to instantly relate and root for one of the two. Because there were Gen-Xers saying, 'Millennials, you're too much this, not enough that.' And Millennials saying, 'No, you're just from an old system that's broken. We're the future, and it's happening right now.'" The future begins... **SEPT. 21**

CRIMINAL MINDS Kirsten Vangsness, Aisha A.J. Cook, and Joe Mantegna

CRIMINAL MINDS

▶ | *SEASON 12* | 9PM | CBS

To help fill the void left by Shemar Moore (who quit last spring) and Thomas Gibson (who got canned last month), CBS upped Paget Brewster (Emily Prentiss) and Aisha Tyler (Dr. Tara Lewis) to

A FRESH FACE ON Emp

ARROW: BETTINA STRAUSS/THE CW; *CRIMINAL MINDS*: DARREN MICHAELS/CBS; *EMPIRE*: CHUCK HODES/FOX; FOWLER: FREDERICK M. BROWN/GETTY IMAGES

Tyler, Matthew Gray Gubler, Adam Rodriguez,

series regulars and recruited Adam Rodriguez (*CSI: Miami*) to play FBI task force agent Luke Alvez. Together with mainstays like Joe Mantegna (David Rossi), Matthew Gray Gubler (Dr. Spencer Reid), and Kirsten Vangsness (Penelope Garcia), the team will pick up where last season left off by going after a bunch of serial-killer convicts who are on the lam, including one very slippery cat named Mr. Scratch (Peter Lewis). "He's our baddie for the year," says EP Erica Messer. "We hope to stretch things out by telling his creepy tales." **SEPT. 28**

LAW & ORDER:SVU

⊙ | *SEASON 18* | **9PM** | **NBC**

Tension abounds as Chief Dodds (Peter Gallagher) holds Olivia (Mariska Hargitay) personally responsible for his son's demise, and he's not alone. "She blames herself for what happened and as a result will be even more protective of her team going forward," Hargitay says. So much so, she may overcompensate and "try to insert herself into situations that she shouldn't," says new showrunner Rick Eid, teasing that Benson will still work in the field while being the boss, with Fin (Ice T) as her reluctant No. 2. **SEPT.21**

ire

⊙ | ***SEASON 3*** | **SEPT. 21** | **9PM** | **FOX**

IT'S FINALLY HAPPENING! AFTER TWO years of rumors, Mariah Carey is set to guest-star on *Empire*. Good friend (and *Precious* director) Lee Daniels has been teasing a Carey cameo since the first season and decided enough was enough. "I said, 'It's time to put Mariah on the show because I am going to be a liar to the world and to her,'" says the show's co-creator and EP with a laugh. Carey will portray Kitty, a singer brought in by Cookie (Taraji P. Henson) to duet with Jamal (Jussie Smollett). The Lyon matriarch thinks that working with a star as big as Kitty will help her son deal with his PTSD and stage fright after being shot at the end of last season. While Carey is currently slated only for the Oct. 5 episode, Daniels says he hopes Kitty will return and promises her *Empire* wardrobe is appropriately dramatic. Teases Daniels, "Lots of hair and fishnets and stilettos!" Cookie's gonna be jeaaaalous! —*TIM STACK*

Mariah Carey and Jussie Smollett

BREAKING BIG

MICAH FOWLER OF *Speechless*

⊙ | ***NEW COMEDY*** | **SEPT. 21**
⊙ | **8:30PM** | **ABC**

"GROWING UP A HUGE TV AND movie fan, I couldn't help but notice the lack of characters dealing with disabilities," says Micah Fowler, 18, via email. As a child, he played small roles on *Blue's Clues* and *Sesame Street* and recently had a role in 2013's *Labor Day*, but when *Speechless* debuts this fall, his JJ DiMeo will be one of the first leads on a sitcom with a disability—in JJ's case, cerebral palsy.

Like his character, Fowler has the neurological disorder, though his symptoms aren't as severe. While Fowler and JJ both use a wheelchair, JJ is nonverbal and has a limited range of motion that requires him to use a laser pointer to communicate. To play JJ, Fowler must restrain hand and arm movements and "compensate physically," he says. "All of my acting choices have to come through my expressions alone." But Fowler hopes people will look past JJ's wheelchair and see his "heart, humor, and big personality."

And in the DiMeo family there's plenty of personality to go around: Minnie Driver, as the unflappable English mother, leads her very American clan—dad Jimmy (John Ross Bowie) and kids JJ, Ray (Mason Cook), and Dylan (Kyla Kenedy)—on a variety of misadventures, all aimed at making a better life for each of her kids. In the pilot, the family goes in search of a school that offers an aide to give JJ a "voice," one that ultimately manifests itself in the form of school janitor Kenneth, played by Cedric Yarbrough, whom JJ immediately bonds with because he sounds "cool."

The series steers clear of sentimentality, though, and as Driver says, Fowler's JJ is a typical teenage boy: "He likes girls, wants to try beer for the first time, wants to hang out and get in with the cool kids." She commends Fowler, on the other hand, for being anything but run-of-the-mill, calling him "absolutely inspiring in terms of his work ethic." Also, look out for him to be the one whose dark-edged humor gets the show's biggest laughs. —*DALENE ROVENSTINE*

MODERN FAMILY

⊙ | *SEASON 8* | 9PM | ABC

The premiere continues the triple-travel theme from the season 7 finale—Jay (Ed O'Neill) and Gloria (Sofia Vergara) in Mexico, Mitch (Jesse Tyler Ferguson) and Cam (Eric Stonestreet) in Missouri, and the Dunphys in NYC (shot on location!)—before everyone reconvenes to celebrate Father's Day. Warning: Jay has high expectations. "His attitude is, 'Christmas is for everybody, and birthdays are depressing because they add a year, but Father's Day is the perfect holiday,'" says exec producer Christopher Lloyd. "The families have a history of not showing him the proper respect on Father's Day, in his opinion." Also this season: "Gloria speaks a little bit of Russian, which gets her out of a problem," says Lloyd. "And believe it or not, there is a very reasonable explanation for why she speaks Russian." *¡Interesante!* Or rather: **интересно!** **SEPT. 21**

BLINDSPOT

⊙ | *SEASON 2* | 10PM | NBC

If you thought being covered in tattoos and left in a bag in Times Square was bad, try being tortured for three months at a CIA "black site." To secure her freedom, Jane Doe (Jaimie Alexander) is forced to rejoin the FBI and act as a double agent within the mysterious organization that inked her. "Jane's own allegiances are in play," says EP Martin Gero. But Weller (Sullivan Stapleton), the team, and NSA agent Nas (Archie Panjabi) are divided over working with Jane again. "There's a lot of anger and resentment," Alexander says. As a result, Jane leans more toward the organization—and unpredictable sociopath Roman (Luke Mitchell)—as they provide her with more info on her past with an eye toward achieving their terrifying plan. **SEPT. 14; MOVES TO 8PM ON SEPT. 21**

CHICAGO P.D.

⊙ | *SEASON 4* | 10PM | NBC

Big shake-ups are ahead for the Intelligence Unit. As Voight (Jason Beghe) shows no remorse over presumably killing the man who shot his son, the brass puts pressure on Lindsay (Sophia Bush) to flip on her mentor. "Does she defend and ultimately try to save Voight at the risk of her own career, or is it time for her to break away and be her own person?" says EP Matt Olmstead, adding that Lindsay will get out from Voight's shadow and move in with Halstead (Jesse Lee Soffer) this year. Meanwhile, Antonio (Jon Seda) finds himself in a May-December romance with *Chicago Fire*'s Brett (Kara Killmer). And with Roman (Brian Geraghty), gone, Burgess (Marina Squerciati) puts her focus on work and new partner Tay (Li Jun Li), who got demoted after a relationship with a police captain turned sour. Is *Chicago Couples Therapy* next? **SEPT.21**

CODE BLACK

⊙ | *SEASON 2* | 10PM | CBS

War is coming to the medical drama as maverick Dr. Leanne Rorish (Marcia Gay Harden) finds herself fighting Dr. Will Campbell (Boris Kodjoe), who is now in charge of the OR *and* the ER. "Her battle is to maintain control of the ER against what seems to be an oppressive system," says Harden. Thankfully, she'll find an ally in cowboy military doctor Col. Ethan Willis, played by Rob Lowe, who joins the ranks of Angels Memorial Hospital. "We end up with a really great triangle—not a love triangle," says creator Michael Seitzman of the changing dynamic, adding that this season will be bigger than the first year. The Halloween episode is "a monster" that will feature a giant surprise. "It's breaking every budget we have," teases Seitzman. **SEPT. 28**

FREQUENCY

⊙ | *NEW DRAMA* | 9PM | THE CW

A second chance, a do-over—whatever you want to call it, Raimy (Peyton List) has one. Based on the 2000 film, *Frequency* follows Raimy, an NYC detective whose world is turned upside down when a voice on her ham radio claims to be her long-dead father (Riley Smith)...talking to her from the year 1996. That means Raimy could possibly change the past. "The thing that appealed to me most from the film really was the 'what if?' of it all," showrunner Jeremy Carver says. But when that "what if?" leads Raimy to mess with the timeline of her life by saving her father, there are ripple effects. Suddenly, Raimy's living in a 2016 where her father's alive. List says, "Just when she's going 'Everything is perfect now' is when the rest of her life starts unraveling." **OCT. 5**

Peyton List

LE

CHEMISTRY

THEIR CHARACTERS may not go together like peas and carrots, but Damon Wayans and Clayne Crawford have become quite chummy on the set of *Lethal Weapon*, Fox's reboot of the 1987 cop flick about mismatched but highly effective LAPD detectives Roger Murtaugh (Wayans) and Martin Riggs (Crawford). We put their partnership to the test. *—LYNETTE RICE*

THAL WEAPON

◉ | ***NEW DRAMA*** | SEPT. 21 | 8PM | FOX

TEST *With* DAMON WAYANS *and* CLAYNE CRAWFORD

What do you remember from the first time you met?

DAMON WAYANS I met him for breakfast and he seemed really like a real laid-back, down-home kind of guy. No pretense at all.

CLAYNE CRAWFORD I was in a whirlwind. This had all happened at 4 o'clock the day before. [The producers] called and were like, "Get on a plane!" I remember being intimidated because I've grown up with Damon. Me and my buddies always tried to re-create the sketches he did on *In Living Color*. I expected something bigger than life. And then I get there and I meet a man who has not only children, but grandchildren.

DW I have seven grandchildren.

CC It's the first thing he told me when he sat down.

Who's most likely to get to set first?

DW Clayne, because they work the hell out of him. He's Mr. Action Hero.

What does your costar do when he gets angry or frustrated?

CC He goes inside himself to see if there's anything he needs to do, which is nice. He kind of pulls back.

DW That's very observant. I don't want to be a jerk.

Favorite snacks?

DW He has this really cool drink that I started drinking, which is kale, ginger, spinach, and apple.

CC It's like a life force, man. Just smelling it I get excited.

DW Now ask him what mine is.

CC His favorite is peanut butter and apple. Protein...

DW ...with a little crunch!

Who cares more about how his character looks?

DW I don't. It's like they opened up Danny Glover's wardrobe for this show. I don't care about any of it. When we wrap, I won't ask for anything. They can have it all.

CC If anything, we've had to tell people to leave us alone. We're running! We're gunning! We're crazy! Let us be a mess.

Who's most likely to break character?

DW Me, because I get giddy! There are times I improvise, and to see someone's eyes smile because they weren't ready for that just makes me laugh. I tend to enjoy my jokes more than other people.

Who has been more injury-prone?

DW Him, because he's doing more stunts. I don't say he's "injury-prone." It's the stuff that he's required to do. But we've discovered cryo-chambers.

Where you sort of freeze away the pain?

CC You're so miserable in there for 3½ minutes. Then after you come out, it feels like you've taken 10 Advils.

FREQUENCY: BETTINA STRAUSS/THE CW; WAYANS AND CRAWFORD: BRIAN BOWEN SMITH/FOX (2); *LETHAL WEAPON*: RICHARD FOREMAN JR./FOX

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QUEEN SUGAR

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | 10PM | OWN

The opening frame of *Queen Sugar*, the new series from writer-director Ava DuVernay, features a close-up on the long braids of Nova Bordelon (*True Blood*'s Rutina Wesley). Nova and her siblings must contend with the death of their father and the sugarcane farm he left behind in the Southern-set drama inspired by the novel by Natalie Baszile. The shot is the beginning of a sensual moment between Nova and Calvin (Greg Vaughan), the man she is having an affair with. It's also an indication of what DuVernay has in store for us. "If I'm creating something out of my likeness, my heart, and my spirit, what defines me and black women in general?" she asks. "Our hair." **SEPT. 6–7**

SOUTH PARK

▶ | *SEASON 20* | 10PM
▶ | COMEDY CENTRAL

"We've been through three eras of television," says *South Park* co-creator Matt Stone. "Cable television, the DVD era, now the internet." Maybe that explains why change has been coming to the small mountain town in Colorado. Last year, the show edged toward what co-creator Trey Parker calls "serialized-lite" storytelling, with an ongoing saga about gentrification and political correctness. "People were tuning in at the end, catching up," says Stone. Will the show's landmark 20th season go full-binge? Per the creators' insistence on a rapid week-of turnaround for episodes, even they don't know what lies ahead. But surely the presidential election will feature prominently? "We have a show on Wednesday after the Tuesday election," says Stone. "You almost can't do anything but." **SEPT. 14**

YOUNGER

▶ | *SEASON 3* | 10PM | TV LAND

With Kelsey's (Hilary Duff) engagement officially dead, and Liza's (Sutton Foster) tug-of-war with twentysomething tattoo artist Josh (Nico Tortorella) and boss Charles (Peter Hermann) becoming as unbalanced as an isosceles triangle, there's one surprising candidate for a new love interest: salty executive Diana (Miriam Shor), who gets a real shot at romance. "Diana never goes halfheartedly toward a goal, so it's fun to watch her be vulnerable, and her love life is where she finds that," Shor teases of her character's arc in the secretive third season, which TV Land is keeping under tight wraps. Perhaps it's because last season's unexpected death of scheming cheater Thad blasted open the possibility for *Younger* to off anyone. "We're like *Game of Thrones* over here now," says Shor. "You never know. One of us could fall down an elevator shaft." **SEPT. 28**

YOUNGER Sutton Foster and Peter Hermann

WEDNESDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Natalie Abrams, Chancellor Agard, Darren Franich, Samantha Highfill, Dalton Ross, Marc Snetiker, and Dan Snierson

RECTIFY: JACKSON LEE DAVIS/SUNDANCE TV; YOUNGER: TV LAND

Rectify

▶ | *SEASON 4* | OCT. 26 | 10PM | SUNDANCETV

EXIT INTERVIEW With ADEN YOUNG

THE FOURTH AND FINAL season of the SundanceTV drama picks up after sweet, troubled Daniel (Aden Young), who may or may not be a murderer, is banished from Georgia and starts life anew in Tennessee. With eight episodes left, we talked with Young about saying goodbye. —*ARIANA BACLE*

So, did Daniel do it?

What you're going to find out is one of the most gradual, incremental, spectacular reveals of possible truth and possible fiction at the same time. As far as the whodunit aspect of it, I think people are really going to be enthralled by [showrunner Ray McKinnon's] handling of it.

Will more details from Hanna's murder emerge?

Absolutely. Over time, people like to get things off their chest—especially when they feel the pressure of a whole town and a whole family's grief bearing down on them.

How is being away from his family going to affect Daniel?

He really has to look at himself and what he wants and whether he wants to continue with his journey. With this opportunity to go to Nashville and try to make a life for himself, it's a bit like Humpty Dumpty. *Are* they going to have the ability to put him back together again?

How has the show ending affected you?

It's been a remarkable journey to take, having Daniel Holden inside your psyche for so long—but it's also been a great relief in some ways, to say goodbye after having spent five years with him, day in and day out. [*Laughs*]

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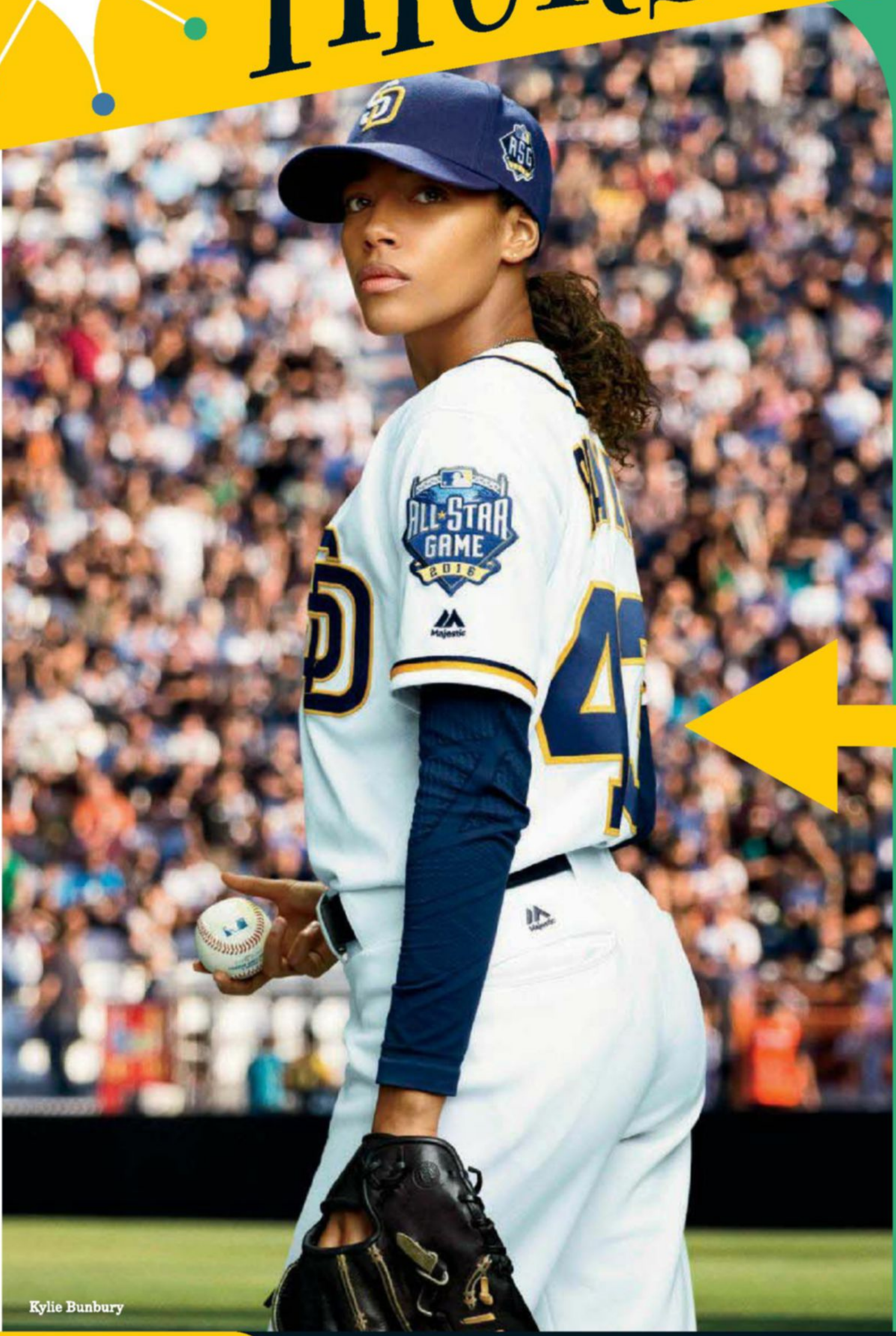
THURSDAY



Kylie Bunbury

New Drama

PITCH

SEPT. 22

FOX

9PM

By *Natalie Abrams*
@NATALIEABRAMS

CONTENTS

Grey's Anatomy P. 80 ✦ DC's Legends of Tomorrow P. 82 ✦ Rosewood P. 82 ✦ The Good Place P. 82 ✦ Notorious P. 82
Chicago Med P. 84 ✦ Mom P. 84 ✦ Life in Pieces P. 84 ✦ The Great Indoors P. 84 ✦ How to Get Away With Murder P. 87
Better Things P. 88 ✦ The Blacklist P. 88 ✦ Falling Water P. 88 ✦ Pure Genius P. 88 ✦ Superstore P. 91

O

OKAY, SO ZACK MORRIS IS GOING TO BE SLAPPING my ass. Interesting,” remembers Kylie Bunbury of her first chemistry read with costar Mark-Paul Gosselaar. “He was so polite and asked me if he could, and I said yes. And then I got to slap his as well! So it was a win-win.” Though Bunbury makes it sound like a glamorous job perk, for her character, Ginny Baker, on Fox’s new drama *Pitch*—the first female Major League baseball player—it’s only one of many indignities she’ll have to suffer on her way to success as a new pitcher for the San Diego Padres. ► When Ginny shows up at the clubhouse on her first day, every little girl in America, not to mention the team’s fictional owner (Bob Balaban) and her tenacious agent (Ali Larter), are rooting for her to win big. (Even Hillary Clinton sends good-luck flowers!) Ginny is an overnight sensation before she’s thrown a pitch. Unfortunately, Ginny’s teammates, including captain Mike Lawson (Gosselaar), aren’t keen on a girl coming in to take their job. And a nagging question looms large: Is she just a sideshow gimmick to help the flagging team sell tickets? Add to that living up to the astronomically high expectations of a father (Michael Beach) who takes stage parenting to new heights, and Ginny’s job becomes a helluva lot bigger than just playing ball. ► Ginny isn’t the only one feeling the pressure of being in the spotlight. In fact, one could compare *Pitch*’s launch to the overwhelming excitement of bases loaded, two outs, with the team’s last hope stepping up to the plate. And heading the lineup is a rookie: first-time lead Bunbury, until now best known for her secondary turn on CBS’ *Under the Dome*. Despite few credits to her name, the actress was cast before *Pitch* was picked up to pilot, both because she impressed the powers that be and because they wanted to give her enough time to learn how to throw a ball before cameras rolled. The self-deprecating, lighthearted 27-year-old is not taking her call up from the minor leagues nonchalantly, parsing her words carefully and pausing to find the best answer when asked about how she relates to her character. “Ginny’s still figuring out who she is, just like I am. She knows how to handle the ballplayer element, she knows how to handle herself around the guys. But normal, typical social things, she doesn’t.”

(PREVIOUS S PAGE) FOX

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Dan Lauria, Mark-Paul Gosselaar, and Bunbury

For his part, TV vet Gosselaar has tremendous respect for Bunbury, and he says his character, Mike, will come to have the same for Ginny—an admiration the actor finds important to showcase and part of the reason he joined the series. "This is a story that I want my kids to know about and to see," the 42-year-old says of his two boys and two girls. "It's important that they understand the story of not having boundaries just because of gender."

It's a sentiment that gets at what everyone associated with *Pitch* wants you to know: This isn't just a sports show. "Baseball is like the gigantic Trojan horse that we're busting down the doors of network television with," says executive producer Paris Barclay (*Sons of Anarchy*). "Inside the Trojan horse is a story about a woman finding her place in a man's world." Co-creator Dan Fogelman likens his show to a heightened workplace drama much like *The West Wing*—even down to the fast-paced walk-and-talks in the replica of the Padres clubhouse built on the Paramount lot. The show will highlight tentpole moments in a baseball season while telling societal stories about race, discrimination, and sexuality—all very real concerns in professional sports and beyond. "Eventually we'll even get to the fact that she's a black woman on the mound," Barclay says. (Fogelman notes the character wasn't written with race in mind.) "Someone's going to ask her about Black Lives Matter, someone's going to ask her about what's going on in the world."

All of that said, the cast and crew are taking great pains to ensure that they get the baseball part of things right. Preseason, Bunbury, a former teen model who grew up in Minnesota playing soccer and basketball, had two and a half months to learn how to pitch, throwing three days a week while also boxing and doing full-body workouts. Now she's focusing on batting, watching tons of MLB Network—"Learning through osmosis," Bunbury quips—and training alongside costars Mo McRae and Gosselaar (who actually got to *gain* a bit of weight for his role). Just like in the pros, however, production is careful to rein in how often Bunbury takes the mound. "We have to count every pitch she throws when we're shooting," Barclay says. "She cannot pitch in two successive days, just like a regular pitcher. We've got to schedule it so she rests, takes time off, does her stretching, and does all of the things that a professional pitcher has to do, because it can be very debilitating."

Fogelman also met with Major League Baseball commissioner Rob Manfred to get the league's blessing and guidance—and hired technical advisers including former Baltimore Oriole Gregg Olson and Dodger veteran Chad Kreuter—to make sure the show accurately provides an all-access pass to the world of professional baseball. (Sometimes the action feels so real, it's probably best watched with a hot dog and beer.) While *Pitch* can't use real players' names or numbers—hence a jersey adorned with "Fogelman 82" hanging in the clubhouse—it can feature the real All-Star Game, which was hosted this season by the Padres. Big-name guest stars from the baseball world will also be sprinkled throughout the season like Easter eggs.

Initially the show was slated to launch in spring of 2017, but when ABC moved *Scandal* to a midseason premiere, Fox saw an opportunity and a time slot to grab viewers looking for a strong-female-led show in the fall. And it didn't hurt that it fell in the lead-up to the World Series, which Fox also airs. "Kerry Washington getting pregnant worked out great for us, there's no doubt about that," EP Kevin Falls says with a laugh. Adds Fogelman: "I'm happy to have the World Series be the backdrop for the show's launch—and I'm happy anytime we don't have to air against a Shonda Rhimes show."

But don't go expecting salacious story lines here. "We want to have the kind of show that makes you feel good," Barclay says. "It's not about scandal and how negative we can be; it's about going to the ballpark and enjoying yourself." It's that level of hope that makes this such a ripe time for Fox to take a swing with *Pitch*. "Coming out in the year in which a woman might be the next president and in a year in which gender issues are front and center," Barclay notes, "people are finally getting the message that there isn't very much that a woman can't do that a man is currently doing." Especially when that message is delivered at 85 mph.

RAY MICKSHAW/FOX

> **I'M HAPPY TO HAVE THE WORLD SERIES BE THE BACKDROP FOR THE SHOW'S LAUNCH—AND I'M HAPPY ANYTIME WE DON'T HAVE TO AIR AGAINST A SHONDA RHIMES SHOW."** —CO-CREATOR DAN FOGELMAN

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Grey's An

SEASON 13 | SEPT. 22 | 8PM | ABC

ANOTHER DOCTOR HAS vacated Grey Sloan Memorial, but Callie's (Sara Ramirez) move to New York won't be as devastatingly heartbreaking to the hospital as it was to the audience. "It's not this sense of loss," EP Shonda Rhimes says. "In our world Callie still exists." But the move does provide the long-running drama a unique opportunity to shift the focus back to the four remaining original characters. "Meredith will always be the nucleus because she's the voice, but to have the four originals still is pretty amazing," Justin Chambers says of his fellow mainstays, including Bailey (Chandra Wilson) and Webber (James Pickens Jr.).

For Meredith (Ellen Pompeo), this season delves into the struggle of how to move forward. After facing the near-impossible task of healing in the wake of Derek's death, "she's in a place of *What's next?*" Rhimes says. "How do you grow up from there? What are the next steps when you're ready to step out on your own?" Part of that next step is navigating the murky waters of a love triangle with recent rebound Riggs (Martin Henderson) and Meredith's half sister Maggie (Kelly McCreary)—though don't expect a catfight. "What I love is that we're not ever a show that's about a guy coming between two women, because I really feel like that's never interesting," Rhimes says.

Focusing on the OGs also means calling back the dynamics of the early seasons—"Symmetry is a thing on this show, because the audience loves familiarity," Pompeo notes—while making season 13

CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE Jesse Williams and Sarah Drew; Ellen Pompeo and Justin Chambers; Jerrika Hinton, James Pickens Jr., and Pompeo

ERIC MCCANDLESS/ABC

atomy

GREY'S ANATOMY: MITCH HAASETH/ABC (2); POMPEO, CAPSHAW, WILLIAMS, DREW: BOB D'AMICO/ABC (4); HENDERSON: TONY RIVETTI/ABC; LUDDINGTON: ADAM TAYLOR/ABC; CHAMBERS: ABC

feel fresh. "My goal is always that every season feels like its own special animal," Rhimes says. Case in point: Alex (Chambers) reverts to his jerky self of the old days in the wake of pummeling DeLuca (Giacomo Gianniotti), believing the intern was making a move on a drunken Jo (Camilla Luddington). It turns out her name isn't even Jo Wilson, and she's still married to the abusive man she ran away from. "Meredith suffered a violent attack last year and very much overcame it, and this idea that women are often treated in this way is disturbing to me," Rhimes says of the show taking on the issue of violence against women. "But it's also very interesting to me to get to tell the story of Jo from this perspective of somebody who has walked away from a past that happened so long ago and might have to face it again." That ability to tackle social issues is among the chief reasons Pompeo decided to re-up her contract with the veteran series. "I'm just floored by how the show touches people," she says. "It really changes and impacts lives." —*NATALIE ABRAMS*

HEART MONITOR

✦ ✦ ✦

In matters of the heart, doctors should know best, right? We check the pulses of the show's hottest pairings.

MEREDITH AND RIGGS

After a secret hookup with Riggs last season, Meredith discovered that Maggie has feelings for the new cardio doc—a good excuse for her to push Riggs away, while also insisting he do the same with Maggie so her sister doesn't get hurt. "She's finding herself in this triangle that Maggie for sure is going to see as a betrayal," Pompeo says. "Call me crazy, but I smell a little drama."

JO AND ALEX

Alex will soon be facing the consequences of beating up DeLuca, both professionally at the hospital and personally at home with Jo. "That relationship is going to be deeply affected," Rhimes says. "The fact that Alex is a guy whose response is to beat somebody up is a little problematic." But Alex will be just as hurt to learn that Jo isn't who she says she is. "They bonded over their past, and to leave that part of her past out, he's going to feel very betrayed," Chambers says.

APRIL AND JACKSON

The newly divorced duo (Sarah Drew and Jesse Williams) will navigate co-parenting with mixed results. "Those feelings are still there," Rhimes says, noting the show will go for a lighter tone with "what it means to be uncoupled...how it feels to see your ex go out on a date, and do you try to sabotage it a little bit?"

ARIZONA AND...?

With Callie out of the picture, Arizona (Jessica Capshaw) truly will be moving on this season. "I'm very excited to introduce a love interest for her," Rhimes says, "and to get to tell a story with her that lets her be who she is and to see who she is after the relationships that she's had."
—*NATALIE ABRAMS*

New & Returning Shows

DC'S LEGENDS OF TOMORROW

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 8PM | THE CW

In season 2, the Legends have tasked themselves with protecting history—until they're lost in time and need rescuing from Dr. Nate Heywood (Nick Zano), a historian whose grandfather was Justice Society of America member Commander Steel (Matthew MacCaull). "Nate comes in as a regular Joe, and we get to have the fun of watching him develop superpowers," executive producer Marc Guggenheim says. Ultimately, the Legends will cross paths with the JSA, adding one of JSA's own, Vixen (Maisie Richardson-Sellers), to their team. They'll need the extra help when *Arrow* baddies Malcolm Merlyn (John Barrowman) and Damien Darhk (Neal McDonough) partner with *The Flash*'s Reverse-Flash (Matt Letscher) and Captain Cold (Wentworth Miller) to form the Legion of Doom—all villains who are "high on [Sara's] kill list," teases Caity Lotz, the actress who plays her. Careful, that Canary Cry can be lethal! **OCT. 13**

ROSEWOOD

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 8PM | FOX

Despite what you've heard about Morris Chestnut asking for fewer shirtless scenes as Dr. Beaumont Rosewood Jr., the crime drama will still feature plenty of skin. "It'll be even sexier," teases Chestnut. "After all, we do have a new captain on board." Stepping in as head of the East Miami police department is Eddie Cibrian, who plays a "very unpredictable leader," shares showrunner Todd Harthan. Other additions include a tough, street-savvy love interest (yet to be cast!) for Rosewood, adding complications to his rocky relationship with Villa (Jaina Lee Ortiz). "That new character contributes to challenging Rosewood's perspective," says Chestnut. "Letting someone new into his life completely changes him." And his wardrobe? **SEPT. 22**

THE GOOD PLACE

▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | 10PM | NBC

This isn't your average network comedy—or even your average afterlife adventure. Not-so-noble Eleanor (Kristen Bell) is erroneously admitted into the next world—it's not called heaven, but it does seem pretty sweet—where she encounters Michael (Ted Danson), the kindly architect who designed the neighborhood in which she and 321 other people live, including her assigned soul mate, ethics professor Chidi (William Jackson Harper). "What you're seeing isn't just a one-size-fits-all conception of the afterlife," says series creator and *Parks and Recreation* overlord Michael Schur. "It's only paradise for this group of people." And this group of people is *not* supposed to include Eleanor, which is why the beautifully manicured neighborhood immediately starts to glitch, leaving Michael scrambling to figure out the cause. Can Eleanor change her shady stripes before it's too late? She'll definitely need a crash course in morality. "The first half of the season is her coming to grips with the fact that she wasn't good enough to make it into this world," says Schur. "Luckily for her, she was paired with an ethics professor who knows a lot of good behavior and bad behavior." Quips Bell: "It will be the heaviest comedy out there." **SEPT. 19; MOVES TO 8:30PM ON SEPT. 22**

Kristen Bell and Ted Danson

N.

CHEMISTRY

INSPIRED BY THE dealings between *Larry King Live* producer Wendy Walker and lawyer Mark Geragos, *Notorious* follows Julia George (Piper Perabo), who swaps favorable prime-time coverage for scoop on clients represented by attorney Jake Gregorian (Daniel Sunjata), creating quite a cozy relationship between the two. But how well do the newly minted costars know each other?
—*NINA TERRERO*

OTORIOUS

NEW DRAMA | SEPT. 22 | 9PM | ABC

TEST With PIPER PERABO and DANIEL SUNJATA

Daniel, what was the name of Piper's character in *Coyote Ugly*?

DANIEL SUNJATA Oh my God. I don't remember her character's name. I just remember the dancing.

PIPER PERABO I'm not offended. In fact, if he was like, "Violet Sanford," I'd be like, "Wait a minute, dude, when was the last time you watched it?"

Piper, true or false: Daniel once had a part on an iconic HBO show that required him to wear a naval uniform.

PP I would say true.

DS And she would be right!

Do you know the name of the show?

PP *Band of Brothers*?

It was *Sex and the City*.

PP Oh wait, what episode? I'm totally putting that on my DVR!

DS Oh no, here we go.

Which one of you watches more TV?

DS Piper absolutely watches more TV than I do.

PP But there's one show that we both watch. Do you remember, Daniel?

DS *Pardon the Interruption* [on ESPN]. To tell you the truth, Piper, I was shocked that that was the show we had in common!

Who's the better driver?

DS I have no clue. I've never seen you drive, Piper.

PP I don't want to brag, but I'm a pretty good driver. Five seasons of *Covert Affairs*, man, you get some driving under your belt.

When the other is in their trailer, what are they usually doing?

PP Daniel's usually blasting music. When we were doing the pilot, we were side by side and I got to know his sexy R&B record collection.

DS We're no longer trailermates, and that's probably why! I would bet Piper's usually drilling lines, doing work on her script, or drawing up plans to rule the world.

Whose on-set wardrobe is more expensive?

DS Piper, hands down.

PP Are you kidding me? Your clothes are so magnificent. His shoes are, especially. You ain't seen men's shoes until you've seen Daniel Sunjata's shoes!

THE GOOD PLACE: TRAE PATTON/NBC; PERABO: LAURA CAVANAUGH/FILMMAGIC.COM; SUNJATA: LAURA CAVANAUGH/FILMMAGIC.COM; *NOTORIOUS*: ELI JOSHUA ADE/ABC

MOM Mimi Kennedy and Anna Faris

CHICAGO MED

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 9PM | NBC

Changes are ahead at the Gaffney Chicago Medical Center. After Reese (Rachel DiPillo) rejects her pathology match, Charles (Oliver Platt) offers her a new job as a psych resident, though he'll have his hands full when his elder daughter (Mekia Cox) starts working at the hospital. "There's some strains in the relationship, which will reveal a lot about his past," EP Andrew Schneider says. Elsewhere, Rhodes (Colin Donnell) gets a challenging mentor (Ato Essandoh) following Dr. Downey's death; Choi (Brian Tee) embraces his new position as chief resident; and April (Yaya DaCosta) isolates herself after a TB diagnosis. In happier news, Goodwin (S. Epatha Merkerson) and Halstead (Nick Gehlfuss) are on track to start new romances. Prep the on-call rooms, stat! **SEPT. 22**

MOM

▶ | *SEASON 4* | 9PM | CBS

Look for a new set of kid troubles for Christy (Anna Faris), whose twentysomething daughter, Violet (Sadie Calvano), was supposedly getting on nicely in Lake Tahoe while working as a blackjack dealer. "She crashes and burns on her own and comes home with a host of problems that are rather formidable," explains EP Chuck Lorre. And Rosie O'Donnell's Jeanine returns—not to get back together with her ex Bonnie (Allison Janney) but to tempt Christy into ditching her goal of returning to college in favor of getting a real estate license. "It's a much quicker path to making a good living and getting out of the waitress uniform," says Lorre. "But it presents a moral dilemma." **OCT. 27**

LIFE IN PIECES

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 9:30PM | CBS

Two proposals, a pregnancy, and a teen wedding might sound like an MTV reality show, but it's where we left the first season of *Life in Pieces*. "Last year we were finding the show and the format," says showrunner Justin Adler. "So this year has been creatively fruitful in that we know what we're doing." Matt (Thomas Sadoski) and Colleen (Angelique Cabral) are wedding planning (expect bachelor/bachelorette parties and a guest-star wedding planner); Jen (Zoe Lister-Jones) and Greg (Colin Hanks) are dealing with a 1-year-old and another baby on the way; and two knucklehead teenage newlyweds are realizing marriage is more than sex. "We're excited about filling out this world," says Adler, who's added Megan Mullally and Nick Offerman as the parent figures (they're actually siblings) of teen wife Clementine (Hunter King). If the term "Uncle Dad" makes you uncomfortable, consider yourself warned. **OCT. 27**

Q+A

JOEL McHALE OF

The Great Indoors

▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | OCT. 27 | 8:30PM | CBS

Christopher Mintz-Plasse and Joel McHale

JOEL McHALE HAS graduated from community college and ventured into the wild, only to be summoned back inside. On the CBS comedy *The Great Indoors*, the *Community* alum stars as an outdoor-adventure magazine writer who must return to the office to supervise a staff populated by strange creatures that he doesn't understand: millennials. Let's fall into the generation gap with the 44-year-old, shall we?
—*DAN SNIERSON*

What was your first reaction when you read this script?
I consulted the Oracle of Delphi, and it said this was the one. I talked to King Arthur, and I pulled the sword from a stone and right through the sword was the script.

What was your second reaction, when you found out you'd be starring opposite Stephen Fry?
I thought it was a mistake, and I assumed he'd been blackmailed into it somehow. I was like, "Why are you doing it?" and he was like [*in British accent*], "Oh, I thought it would be fun!" And I was like, "YOU'RE STEPHEN FRY."

Do you expect millennials to be offended by the show's portrayal of easily offended millennials? Does that excite you?
Absolutely. If we are offending easily offendable millennials, then we are doing our job. That said, we are equal-opportunity offenders. Generation X will absolutely be offended, and so will baby boomers. I guarantee that if some kids wander onto set, we'll make fun of them, too.

Can you say something nice about millennials?
They are the most inclusive generation in the history of the world.

Okay, now can you say something mean about millennials?
They played too many sports as kids where their parents didn't want their feelings to be hurt if they lost.

Some people might be surprised to find you on a CBS multicamera comedy.
If you are a comedy formatist—as in, racist—then just take a few minutes and listen to the jokes, and you'll be like, "Oh! All right! Here we go!" Watch it before you take a swing at it. And if you take a swing at it, I will catch your fist and crush it while staring into your eyes.

MOM: MONTY BRINTON/CBS; *THE GREAT INDOORS*: CLIFF LIPSON/CBS

FROM TOP Conrad Ricamora and Viola Davis; Liza Weil, Aja Naomi King, Davis; Jack Falahee (at banister), Behzad Dabu, and Alfred Enoch

Tune in to EW Radio SiriusXM 105 this week and on the app for Jess Cagle's interview with **HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER** star Viola Davis

REINVENTING...

HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER

▶ | ***SEASON 3*** | **SEPT. 22** | **10PM** | **ABC**

EVEN THE BEST OF SHOWS ARE sometimes guilty of disorder in the court. Such is the case with this Shondaland thriller that stars Viola Davis as Annalise Keating, a criminal-law professor leading a pack of eager (*too* eager?) students. Though it nabbed its star an Emmy and won its own critical kudos, the show also dropped a full 30 percent in viewership in its second season—a development that may have had something to do with the unwieldy amount of story told over 15 episodes. "I'm trying to rejigger this year and be willing to have quieter scenes, really make it more character-driven," concedes executive producer Pete Nowalk. "But I don't want to change too much, because the minute you pull one thread the whole thing falls apart." One intriguing alteration: We'll see a new side to Annalise as she deals head-on with her feelings toward Frank (Charlie Weber)—who was to blame for the loss of her unborn baby boy—and gets a chance to start a new chapter in her complicated love affair with Nate (Billy Brown). "You'll see more of her sweet side, or the struggle to be sweet," says Davis. "I think the loss of her child really killed a lot for Annalise. I love that we explore the mess of what it means to be human," Davis says of the direction this season will move in.

But it wouldn't be *Murder* without a mystery, so expect one to reveal itself in the premiere when Keating finds a picture of herself in her classroom with "KILLER" scrawled across it. "She's definitely feeling the effects of the first two seasons, and her reputation has suffered," explains Nowalk, who promises a "big answer" to the cliff-hanger of who killed Wes' (Alfred Enoch) father in the first two minutes back. And since it's a new school year, a few new students will enter the fray. "We do want an outsider's perspective on our people," teases Nowalk. Order... restored? *—LYNETTE RICE*

RICAMORA AND DAVIS: NICOLE WILDER/ABC; *HOW TO GET AWAY WITH MURDER*: MITCH HAASETH/ABC (2)

THURSDAY

BETTER THINGS

| ***NEW COMEDY*** | 10PM | FX

In Pamela Adlon's semiautobiographical dark comedy, her character, Sam Fox—actor, mother, realist—gets caught looking at "mature lady" porn by one of her daughters, and then later has to act out a similar situation for the sake of a TV show she's in. These are the cruel little ironies that keep popping up on *Better Things*, which Adlon co-created with Louis C.K. (hence the show's *Louie*-esque vibe). "There aren't necessarily massive life- and earth-changing events happening," says Adlon. "It's just regular, mundane life. Like, *That woman irritated me so much and these are the things I wished I would have said to her!*" Set in L.A., the series witnesses Fox and her three daughters navigate confusing phases of their lives, from college applications to new flings. Enter Lenny Kravitz, who has a surprisingly tender turn as one of Sam's potential romantic partners. That should qualify as a better thing, right? **SEPT. 8**

THE BLACKLIST

| ***SEASON 4*** | 10PM | NBC

Liz Keen is having a terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day. After faking her death in a bid for normalcy, Liz (Megan Boone) was kidnapped by a man purporting to be her father. "We should take him at his word," executive producer Jon Bokenkamp says of Alexander Kirk (Ulrich Thomsen), whose introduction provides a wealth of info about Liz's past, her mother (Lotte Verbeek), and her mysterious connection to Red (James Spader). "What comes to light is that it's not really Reddington bringing all of this upon her, it's her own history and where she comes from," Boone teases. It's that same want for answers that will eventually send Tom (Ryan Eggold) to midseason spin-off *The Blacklist: Redemption*, with his supposed mother Scottie Hargrave (Famke Janssen) slated to return on the flagship this fall. His-and-hers parental issues! **SEPT.22**

BETTER THINGS Pamela Adlon

FALLING WATER

| ***NEW DRAMA*** | 10PM | USA

Dreams take center stage on this twisty thriller, but that's where similarities with *Inception* end. In the world of *Falling Water*, dreams act like treasure maps, and when one particular head trip begins to seep into the minds of three troubled strangers—a police detective (Will Yun Lee) with a catatonic mother, an artist (Lizzie Brocheré) searching for her son, and a security officer (David Ajala) with a missing lover—they'll find clues that point to a larger, possibly real-life threat. "You can encounter representations of evil that manifest in dreams, that you won't see [when you're awake]," executive producer Gale Anne Hurd (*The Walking Dead*) explains. "*Falling Water* asks, 'What are your dreams trying to tell you? And can it actually inform your life?'" Sleep tight—if you can. **OCT. 13**

Pure Genius

| ***NEW DRAMA*** | OCT.27
| 10PM | CBS

Augustus Prew and Dermot Mulroney

CAN JASON KATIMS make you cry about technology? That'll be the test for the *Parenthood* alum's new series starring Dermot Mulroney as a rebel surgeon and Augustus Prew (*Kick-Ass 2*) as the tech mogul who wants to bring a start-up mentality to the hospital floor. "It's a world where there are no offices, where patient records are easily accessible, and there is a constant brainstorming in the group incubator," says creator Katims, who hinged his premise on the promise that nifty tech will make this *Genius* a wholly new TV medical drama. "It's not science fiction, but more speculative fiction. All the technology is based on what we believe will exist." Take, for example, an ingestible camera, which a character in the pilot uses to determine the viability of a fetus. "Ingestibles are out there," confirms Katims. "But in the show we manipulate the mobility of it. Sometimes we make small leaps, sometimes bigger leaps." To that end, the *Genius* staff is loaded with experts, including a digital health specialist and two writers who happen to be doctors. Katims, for his part, is happily learning. "It's different than anything I've done, but then again, it's the same because I'm ultimately trying to find the emotional core of the doctors and patients," he says. "When I did *Friday Night Lights*, I didn't come into it with a deep knowledge of football, either."

—*MARC SNETIKER*

BETTER THINGS: COLLEEN HAYES/FX; *PURE GENIUS*: SONJA FLEMMING/CBS

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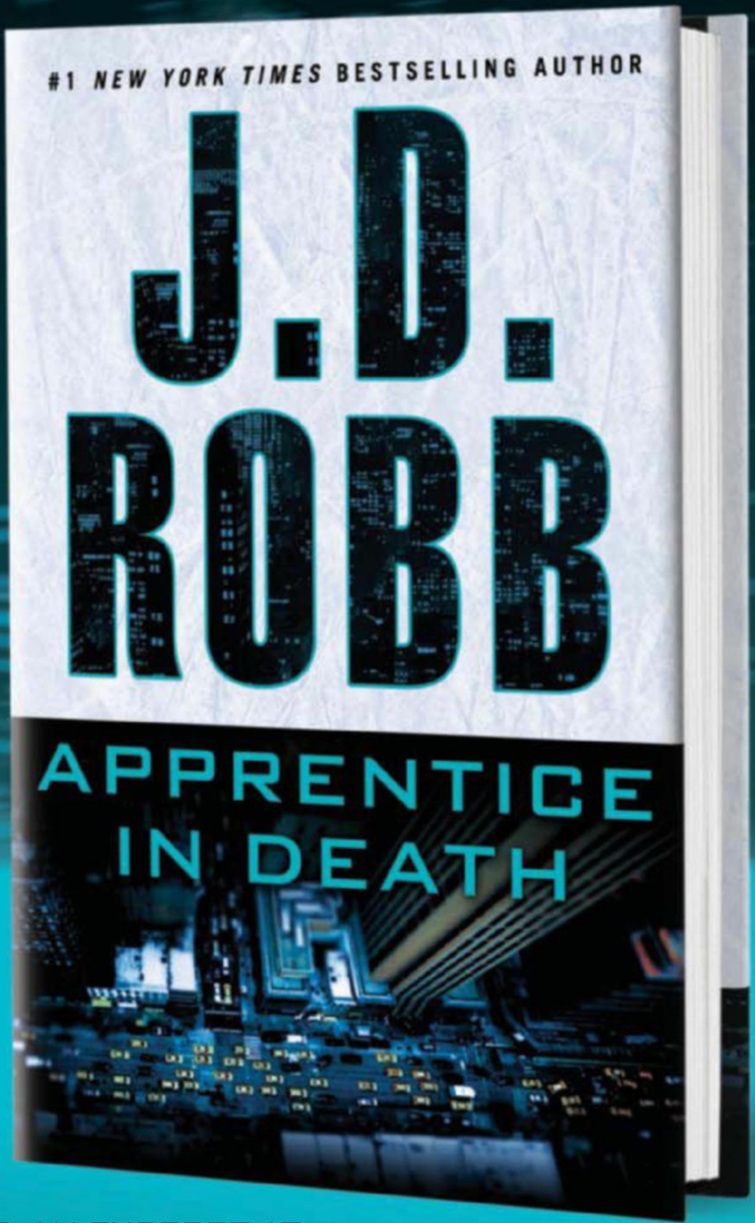
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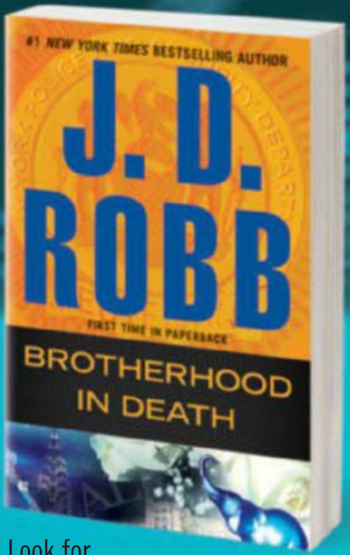
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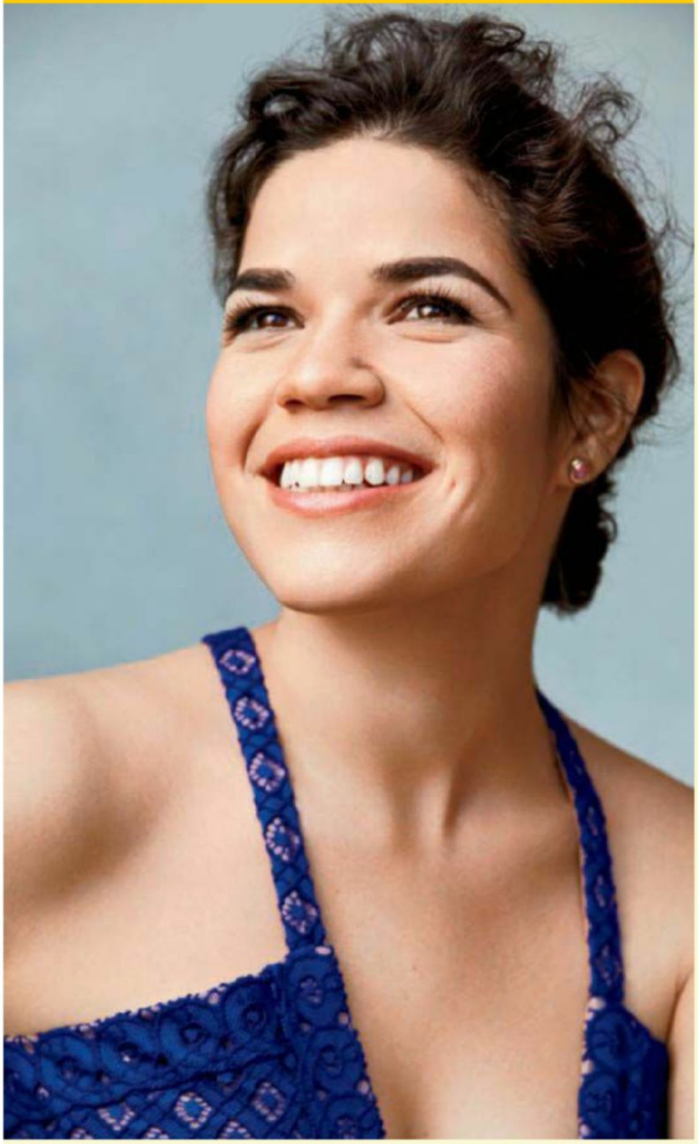
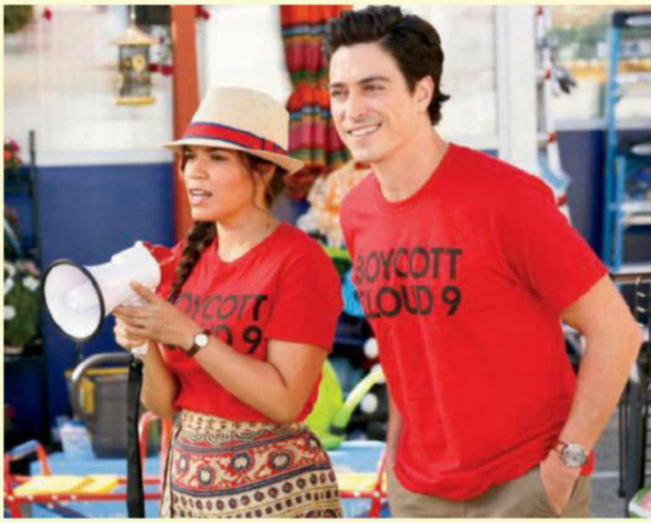
Q+A

AMERICA FERRERA OF *Superstore*

| **SEASON 2** | SEPT. 22 | 8PM | NBC



FERRERA: NINO MUNOZ/CPI SYNDICATION; *SUPERSTORE*: TRAE PATTON/NBC



America Ferrera and Ben Feldman on *Superstore*

AN UNLIKELY COMEDY HIT emerged last season when NBC's workplace sitcom *Superstore* shot up in the ratings and into our belly-laughing hearts...after it went off the air. Star America Ferrera plays the pragmatic supervisor and, in the season finale, unlikely strike leader of a wildly rambunctious megastore. Here, the 32-year-old unboxes season 2 and its sillier—and more political than ever—antics. —*MARC SNETIKER*

After season 1 ended, *Superstore* essentially caught up to *The Voice*'s ratings in delayed viewing. Does season 2 feel bigger now?

We hadn't even aired a single episode when we finished [shooting] the first season, but now we're all eager to get back to these characters. Season 2 has been fun to springboard off what we laid down last year, because we're more confident in our improv and our relationships with the writers get better and better. It definitely feels like a joke that we get to keep doing it, like we're really getting away with something.

Hot topics are part of the show's DNA—this season you hit transgender bathroom rights, open-carry gun laws, and undocumented immigration. What's the litmus test for hot-button story lines?

It's always about not taking sides, but showing different points of view—and no one gets off easy. One of my favorite episodes has Jonah (Ben Feldman) sticking his foot in his mouth as abortion comes up, and it's this whole orgy of everybody's crazy perspectives. That's the blessing of the setting and the diversity of the cast. You can't have these kinds of conversations if you're not representing different people, and that's where, for me, the true value of diversity comes through.

You've had a big year yourself, speaking at the Democratic Convention. What helps you decide how to use your voice?

This year there's been a lot of energy around a lot of conversations that matter to me, the election being one of them. And in terms of work, *Superstore* was an unlikely, unexpected avenue towards that—it's entertaining, but it also aligns with who I am and what I care about.

What's the status of the *Ugly Betty* revival campaign you began this summer?

It incited some conversations and actually cast the net a little bit wider [than just] #HuluBringBackUglyBetty. It's still alive. The dream is still alive.

THURSDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Ruth Kinane, Shirley Li, and Ray Rahman

FALL TV
PREVIEW
2016

FRID

CENTER Rachel Bloom

CONTENTS

Hell's Kitchen P. 98 ✦ Last Man Standing P. 98 ✦ Dr. Ken P. 98 ✦ The Exorcist P. 98 ✦ MacGyver P. 99
Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency P. 101 ✦ The Vampire Diaries P. 101

AY & SATURDAY

Returning Comedy

CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND

- SEASON 2
- OCT. 21
- THE CW
- 9PM

By *Marc Snetiker*
@MARCSNETIKER

✦ Shark Tank P.100 ✦ Hawaii Five-O P.100 ✦ Blue Bloods P.100 ✦ High Maintenance P.100 ✦ Quarry P.101 ✦ Van Helsing P.101

Rachel Bloom

WAS THAT CONFIDENT ENOUGH?” RACHEL BLOOM asks the crew planted around a plush, Victorian-era chamber of deep crimsons and even deeper chaises on the set of *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*’s first video of its second season: a send-up of Beyoncé’s *Lemonade*. She’s in an airy, all-white gown, flanked by a trio of expressionless women as she stares down the camera, voguing like the pop queen but vocalizing lyrics of...total delusion. The song applies Beyoncé’s extraordinary air of empowerment to the most ordinary of events: 3 a.m. text messages that send Bloom’s crazed character, Rebecca Bunch, into an R&B frenzy of self-assurance. But maybe this time Rebecca’s confidence isn’t misplaced. When *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* marches into formation for its second season, it’s with a new tone and a new tune, and perhaps a Beyoncé-level strut is warranted. Maybe Rebecca isn’t that crazy at all. ❤ “We could never do a song like this in season 1,” says Bloom, co-creator and star of the newest jewel in The CW’s crown, a sardonic and subversive hour-long musical comedy that scooped up four Emmy nominations and a Golden Globe win. In her network debut, Bloom is the Ex-Girlfriend, Rebecca, a Manhattan lawyer who uproots her life to follow her childhood crush Josh (Vincent Rodriguez III) to a sleepy California town. Or at least, that’s what the show was about *last* season. ❤ “The idea of the show is tracking the stages of love and obsession and rejection,” says Bloom, who developed the series with Aline Brosh McKenna, the screenwriter best known for *The Devil Wears Prada*. “We always imagined the show in four sections: The first one was denial, the second one is certainty.” Season 2, complete with a new theme song and credits sequence, explores the next phase of Rebecca’s fixation on her onetime summer-camp paramour: She’s officially in love, and he loves her back—even if he doesn’t realize it yet. ❤ “The spirit of the whole first season was the lies that she’s telling herself—‘Josh just *happens* to be here’—but now she’s convinced they belong together,” says McKenna, recalling

(PREVIOUS SPREAD AND THIS PAGE) ROBERT VOETS/THE CW (2)

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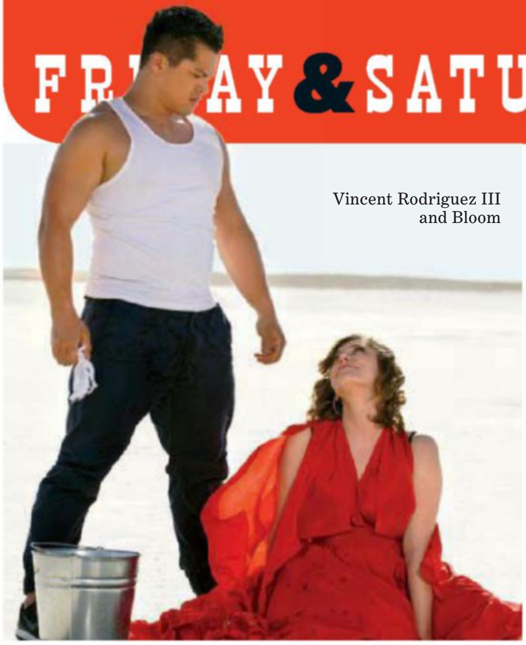

Vincent Rodriguez III and Bloom

the finale in which Rebecca dropped the bombshell to Josh that she moved cross-country for him. “Josh represents happiness, and she went from denying that she was on a quest for happiness to deciding to go for it.” Bloom adds: “Just for Rebecca to be able to boldly say ‘I love him’ allows us to do so much more. We can actually have love songs now!”

Somewhere between those poles of discovery and aspiration sits the series itself. Thankfully, Bloom and McKenna no longer have to explain their vision (or the show’s once-inflammatory title) to viewers or network chiefs. Somehow a show that skewers *The Music Man* and Shakira in the same episode just isn’t as confusing in its second go-round. “It took us a while to figure out how to communicate it to people,” says McKenna. “Last season was like slaloming down a hill and you can’t see it all—at least now we have some idea of where the moguls might be. We’re more prepared, more aware.”

The show’s bumpy road onto airwaves was a tale told frequently during its first year: McKenna found Bloom’s videos on YouTube in 2013 and helped her develop them into a pitch that was picked up as a half-hour pilot by Showtime before it eventually got scrapped. Then CW president Mark Pedowitz rescued it and retooled it as an hour-long that stunned critics when it debuted. “Sometimes people say, ‘Oh, you discovered her,’ but she was doing such brilliant work, it was just a matter of time before somebody else figured it out,” says McKenna of Bloom. “I feel like in many ways, she discovered me, too.”

The other key to *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*’s success is the two to four original songs per episode that run the stylistic gamut from Fifth Harmony to Fred and Ginger. They’re the show’s most viral asset—its top five songs have nearly a million and a half online views in total—and they’ve resulted in three of its four Emmy nominations, including a nod for choreography. Matching last season’s daunting tally of songs (49 all told) is a self-imposed challenge that rests on the shoulders of Bloom, staff writer and co-producer Jack Dolgen, and executive music producer Adam Schlesinger: “I always joke with Rachel that, left to her own devices, every song would be either Broadway or Beyoncé,” quips Schlesinger, the Oscar-nominated composer who wrote “That Thing You Do!” “Whenever there’s an open song slot, Rachel references some obscure musical that four people saw, and I reference some ’80s rock band that Rachel’s never heard of.” But that clash is all aural alchemy, he reasons: “Part of the sound is that there is no sound. We try to do every possible genre we can think of and not repeat ourselves.”

Which explains how season 2 will include the Spice Girls, ballet, and a *Singin’ in the Rain* tap spectacle all spun with the series’ signature sensibility of glamour crossed with banality. Just consider the two songs in the upcoming premiere: “We Should Definitely Not Have Sex Right Now,” a duet between Josh and Rebecca about the flaw of their friendship-with-benefits, and “Love Kernels,” the aforementioned slow jam about the morsels of attention Rebecca misinterprets as declarations of devotion.

The battle between fantasy and reality is one the show returns to often because it reflects Bloom’s deeper logline for the series. “It’s about the pursuit of happiness, in a town and a place where people are already sunny and happy,” she says. “The show is about finding the nuance in happiness and that life doesn’t always have simple answers.” That truth is illustrated in what’s to come for each character in season 2, which picks up a month after last year’s finale: Josh is couch-hopping and soul-searching after leaving girlfriend Valencia (Gabrielle Ruiz); Rebecca’s best friend Paula (Donna Lynne Champlin) is making big changes to her marriage; Rebecca’s boss Darryl (Pete Gardner) encounters the very real issues that face his new coupling with White Josh (David Hull); and neighborhood nice guy Greg (Santino Fontana), after recognizing the unhappiness in his life, undergoes a fundamental shift in his relationship with Rebecca. “Every character was struggling with some lie they’d been telling themselves about their life, and this year, everybody’s made a big choice and they’re trying to change,” teases McKenna. “But it’s very hard to accomplish those goals. Last year was an uncovering season, and this one is very much a striving season.”

Fortunately, the *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* troupe can lean on outrageous musical fantasies (e.g., Paula gets a Disney showstopper) and, more important, one another, as the series continues to develop more than just a unique tone: It has also assembled one of the quirkiest and most diverse ensembles on TV. “When we’re all on set in scenes together, we’re like bubbles that never touch the ground,” gushes Rodriguez. “It just feels like popcorn.” Now, *those* are love kernels.

> “JUST FOR REBECCA TO BE ABLE **TO BOLDLY SAY** ‘I LOVE HIM’ ALLOWS US TO DO SO MUCH MORE. WE CAN ACTUALLY HAVE **LOVE SONGS** NOW!” —*RACHEL BLOOM*

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New & Returning Shows

HELL'S KITCHEN

| *SEASON 16* | 8PM | FOX

Fifteen seasons of the competition series haven't mellowed hot-tempered host Gordon Ramsay. "Am I more relaxed? Definitely not. Am I more refined? Yes," says the 49-year-old chef. "I think I'm like a fine wine. The longer you leave me, the more mature I get." The same might be said of the show itself as this season features "one of the most refined" batch of contestants yet, especially the women's team. "There's four or five challenges where the girls absolutely dominate," Ramsay says. "The men become a little bit childish, and they start throwing their toys." To borrow a phrase from the host, looks like the battle of the sexes is heating the #@!* up. **SEPT. 23**

LAST MAN STANDING

| *SEASON 6* | 8PM | ABC

As the Tim Allen-led sitcom enters its sixth season, the Baxter family grows up—and that includes dad Mike (Allen), who will have to confront both his longtime boss Ed's (Hector Elizondo) potential retirement and the death of his friend Chuck's (Jonathan Adams) father. But not everything will be quite so...mature, like when Mike dresses up as Donald Trump for Halloween. "The dynamics of the family are challenged by him acting like Trump," showrunner Matt Berry teases. Fortunately, a friendlier face returns too, when Jay Leno reprises his role as Joe the mechanic. "We wound up getting [Jay's character] a job at Outdoor Man...so we could have him in any episode without a big explanation." Berry explains. "Tim loves him, the audience loves him.... That's been a delight for us." **SEPT. 23**

DR. KEN Ken Joeng, Dana Lee, and Suzy Nakamura

DR. KEN

| *SEASON 2* | 8:30PM | ABC

"There are twists in the season premiere that will forever change the show's balance," teases star Ken Jeong. The biggest surprise mirrors Jeong's pre-fame life, when Ken's wife, Allison (Suzy Nakamura), gets a job at his office. "Ken always gossips about his wife at work, and that's not flying anymore!" Jeong says. Ken's son, Dave (Albert Tsai), will have his love life thrown for a loop when he acquires a "cute little stalker"—played by Jeong's real-life daughter, Zooey. Taking the theme of family in a different direction, *Dr. Ken*'s Halloween episode will delve into Korean folklore, with ghost stories about spirits called *gwishin*. "*Ghostbusters* is in vogue, and we're hopping on that bandwagon," Jeong jokes. "I ain't afraid of no *gwishin*!" **SEPT. 23**

HOW TO SCARE THE BEJEEZUS OUT OF VIEWERS ON NETWORK TV

The Exorcist

| *NEW DRAMA*
| SEPT. 23
| 9PM | FOX

Guest star Isaac Linares and Ben Daniels

THE STANDARDS OF NETWORK TV ARE PRACTICALLY aimed at keeping the tenets of horror movies off the air. For Fox's *The Exorcist*—which is set in the same world of demons, the families they haunt, and the priests who fight them as the original film—the writers had to search the creepy corners of their imaginations for new ways to make us scream, when jump scares and gore weren't in their bag of tricks.

—KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

1 FIND NEW TRICKS

A loud blast of sound is a go-to technique that filmmakers have used for decades, but the jump scare is the exact kind of thing a horror television series like *The Exorcist* can't do. "Turns out—we didn't know—after you finish your episode, all of the audio levels have to be normalized," executive producer Jeremy Slater says about his experience on the pilot. "Anything that's a little too loud has to be brought down."

2 GO BACK TO THE ORIGINAL

That setback forced the writers to be resourceful and in the end more closely aligned with the style of William Friedkin's 1973 film. "You can't rely on easy gore or profanity to shock audiences," Slater says. "You have to find ways to use visuals and story lines to stick in people's heads and unsettle them and hopefully give them nightmares." For instance, a levitating rat that has its back snapped in midair will do the trick.

3 KEEP IT LIGHT ON SET

Thankfully, those ambitions didn't affect the actors on set. "I had this idea that I was going to be on a show called *The Exorcist*, and I thought, 'Okay, maybe the set will be a little intense,'" says Alfonso Herrera, who stars as one of the series' demon-dissing priests. "But it was fun!"

DR. KEN: NICOLE WILDER/ABC; *THE EXORCIST*: FOX

BREAKING BIG

LUCAS TILL OF

MacGyver

| NEW DRAMA | SEPT. 23
| 8PM | CBS

Photographed on July 21, 2016, in San Diego

AS A KID, LUCAS TILL considered one man to be MacGyver: his dad, who earned the nickname after jerry-rigging a meat smoker, among other projects. In no world did Till, the upcoming star of CBS' *MacGyver* reboot, think he'd take on the iconic character more than 10 years later.

"I was a small kid," says Till, 26 and now 5'10", about how he got into acting. "My mom was like, 'You need to do something,' because I didn't play sports—I'd get run over," he adds with a laugh. Till got an agent when he was 10 years old and landed his first notable Hollywood role at 14 when he played young Jack Cash in *Walk the Line*, a moment Till hoped would be his big break. "I was like, 'This is going to be it! Finally something's going to happen!' " he recalls. "And then I got pushed into a locker [at school]."

It wasn't until the Texas native got the role of Havok in 2011's *X-Men: First Class* that he began to make the transition from the kid who was once too small to play sports to the action hero. And while Havok saves lives with energy blasts, MacGyver saves lives with a stick of gum and his wits. "[MacGyver's] younger now and a little bit snarkier," Till says of his take on the ultimate improviser. "We're trying to make it contemporary, but at the same time, what we wanted to keep the same was that he's a nice dude. He helps people out."

Although viewers will get flashbacks to important moments in MacGyver's life, the reboot is not an origin story. "I wanted to add some value to the franchise, and I felt like what people tune in for TV these days is really character," says showrunner Peter Lenkov (*Hawaii Five-O*). "MacGyver was really a lone wolf back in the day, and I wanted this new MacGyver to have people to interact with. I took characters that existed in the original show and gave them more to do in this version." Till's father could not be more excited. "I'm the coolest guy in the world to him now," Till says. And he hasn't even seen what his son can do with a paper clip.

—SAMANTHA HIGHFILL

Justin Hires and Lucas Till on *MacGyver*

MACGYVER: ANNETTE BROWN/CBS

TILL PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHIAS CLAMER

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

Daymond John, Barbara Corcoran, Kevin O'Leary, and Lori Greiner

SHARK TANK

| *SEASON 8* | 9PM | ABC

What could be more dangerous than swimming with five sharks? How about swimming with six? This year, *Shark Tank* will feature at least two episodes with six moguls fighting for investments at once. "It mixes up the dynamic and the chemistry on the panel," showrunner Clay Newbill says of the new season, which features regulars Barbara Corcoran, Mark Cuban, Lori Greiner, Robert Herjavec, Daymond John, and Kevin O'Leary, as well as relative new guy Chris Sacca. "We got a lot more humor, collaboration, bidding wars, and opinions."

What's more, it seems there'll be plenty worth fighting over. "During a pitch, we know we're doing really well if [crew members] start screaming at the screen they're watching," Newbill says. "'Take the deal! What are you doing?!'" Pitches will include a 16-year-old girl with an app she created after reading a story about bullying, and a scientist with a product that shows where sunscreen has been applied. Let the feeding frenzy begin. **SEPT. 23**

HAWAII FIVE-0

| *SEASON 7* | 9PM | CBS

Following McGarrett's (Alex O'Loughlin) near-death experience, season 7 will explore Five-O's legacy. "McGarrett is contemplating his mortality," EP Peter Lenkov says, noting that family plays an important role this year—Kono (Grace Park) possibly starting her own with Adam (Ian Anthony Dale), Danny's (Scott Caan) relationship with his children, and Chin (Daniel Dae Kim) potentially adopting his niece. "It will cause Chin to rethink how he approaches his job," Kim teases of the tug-of-war for Sara. The landmark 150th episode will see the return of McGarrett's mother (Christine Lahti) and former flame Catherine (Michelle Borth) for a mythology-heavy episode that will "wrap up a lot of story lines." Could that leave room for Steve to find love with Claire Forlani's newbie, Alicia? Her job as a criminal profiler lets her "understand him like no other woman has," Lenkov concedes. **SEPT. 23**

BLUE BLOODS

| *SEASON 7* | 10PM | CBS

Blue Bloods is in a tough spot. Like any show focusing on police work, the series—now entering its seventh season—must grapple with today's perceptions about law enforcement. "It's more of a challenge than it was two or three years ago to tell stories that revolve around good cops," showrunner Kevin Wade says of the police-procedural/family-drama hybrid. "There's never been any taking sides one way or the other, but [we need] to be aware that there's a deep microscope on urban police departments." Keep that in mind as Det. Danny Reagan (Donnie Wahlberg) comes under scrutiny after the fatal shooting of serial killer Thomas Wilder (Louis Cancelmi), which catalyzes a career crisis. Wade's intention isn't to push Danny into a "rogue cop cliché," but instead strive to answer a question: "Can I do what I'm trained to do and what I love to do in the climate that I find myself in?" We await a verdict. **SEPT. 23**

HOW TO ADAPT A WEB SERIES TO TV

High Maintenance

| ***NEW DRAMA*** | SEPT. 16 | 11PM | HBO

IT'S A WARM MID-AUGUST TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN LOS Angeles, and Ben Sinclair and Katja Blichfeld are driving down the Sunset Strip to see if *High Maintenance*'s new billboard has gone up yet. "We feel very L.A.," says Blichfeld. "We even bought a car!" The excitement is understandable: The NYC-based husband-wife duo's show is jumping from critically adored Web series to proper HBO comedy. *High Maintenance* stars Sinclair as a bike-riding marijuana delivery guy who visits a different customer each week. We talked to Sinclair and Blichfeld about how they turned an idiosyncratic Web show into a premium-cable comedy. —*RAY RAHMAN*

Ben Sinclair and Amy Ryan

1 DON'T CHANGE WHAT WORKS

BEN SINCLAIR Katja and I chose to be the only writers and the only directors [for the HBO season] so that we could keep it the same, so that if anyone was like, "Oh, that's different," we can be like, "Well, nothing about the way it's made is really that different on a writing and directing level, so what do you mean?"

2 CRACK OPEN YOUR WALLET

BS Normally, we're asking for favors. It was like, "Do this for us for free or don't do it"—it was a very easy delineation there. But you have to pay full price for things when those three letters [HBO] are attached to your project.

KATJA BLICHFELD In the past, people were just like, "Oh, you guys are painting a barn and putting on a show? Let me help and donate these things and services!" Now it's more business.

3 SHOW SOME SKIN

KB We never portrayed sex [on the Web series]—like the act of sex. When we were doing it for free and not paying people, there was something that felt janky about a non-paying nudity situation. Once we were able to pay people appropriately—now they're getting, like, SAG money—it was like, okay, let's do this. It didn't feel seedy. It was serving the story.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Natalie Abrams, Chancellor Agard, Isabella Biedenharn, Clark Collis, and C. Molly Smith

SHARK TANK: MICHAEL DESMOND/ABC; *HIGH MAINTENANCE*: CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY Samuel Barnett and Elijah Wood

QUARRY

▶ | ***NEW DRAMA*** | **10PM** | **CINEMAX**

Of the series' period touches, one unexpected aspect of *Quarry*'s 1970s Memphis setting came naturally to star Logan Marshall-Green. As Mac, a Vietnam vet pulled into contract killing, Marshall-Green is decked out in a mustache worthy of the era's burgeoning porn industry, but it's the sweat soaking Mac's back that shouts "Nixon administration." "The sweat was essential for what I felt, the heat of Memphis," Marshall-Green says. "A lot of actors like the powder. You're not powdering me anytime soon in that role." The show's creators, Graham Gordy and Michael D. Fuller (*Rectify*), didn't mind the salty dedication. "There were times where we said, 'Do we need a spray bottle?'" Fuller recalls. "And Logan goes, 'I'll go outside for a couple minutes.'" **SEPT. 9**

VAN HELSING

▶ | ***NEW DRAMA*** | **10PM** | **SYFY**

Imagine waking up from a coma to discover that vampires have conquered the world, you have supernatural abilities, and both the humans and bloodsuckers are vying to control you. That's the premise of *Van Helsing*, which follows Vanessa Van Helsing (*True Blood*'s Kelly Overton), a descendant of *the* Van Helsing, in a new interpretation of the Dracula mythos that's entirely unrelated to the Hugh Jackman movie. "We go on this discovery of who she is and if she's a savior or destroyer," says Overton. "She doesn't just come out of the gates like this warrior woman." The reason both sides want Vanessa is probably because her bite can cure vampirism in a person. "We really dive into the psychology of what it was like for a human-turned-vampire to [become] human again," she says. Our guess: confusing. **SEPT. 23**

DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY

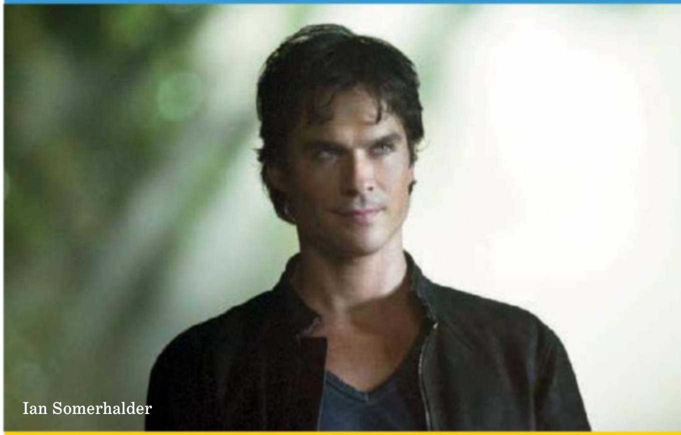
▶ | ***NEW DRAMA*** | **9PM**
▶ | **BBC AMERICA**

"I haven't quite worked out how to articulate what the show is," says Elijah Wood, laughing, when asked about *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*. While he's thinking, let's fill in the basics: Written by Max Landis (*Chronicle*), the series is a loose adaptation of two comedy-thrillers by late novelist and *Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy* creator Douglas Adams. The show stars Samuel Barnett (*Penny Dreadful*) as the titular dick and Wood as his reluctant sidekick, Todd. Elijah? "Dirk Gently is a holistic detective—that means he has an intuition about things but doesn't use traditional means for his detection," says the *Lord of the Rings* star. "Dirk comes into Todd's life and declares him his assistant, and Todd is thrust into this mad world of crazy characters. Does that make sense?" Let's say we now have some clue about what to expect. **OCT. 22**

DIRK GENTLY'S HOLISTIC DETECTIVE AGENCY: BETTINA STRAUSS/BBC AMERICA; THE VAMPIRE DIARIES: BOB MAHONEY/THE CW

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES

▶ | ***SEASON 8*** | **OCT. 21** | **8PM** | **THE CW**



Ian Somerhalder

AS EARLY AS THE FIRST season, *Vampire Diaries* fans were declaring themselves Team Stefan or Team Damon. Which brother should Elena Gilbert (Nina Dobrev) choose? Heading into the show's eighth and final season, the time for debating has passed. "Things are final now," co-creator Kevin Williamson says. "Decisions are being made. People's lives are hanging in the balance. Relationships hang in the balance. Who's going to end up with whom?" It's a question Williamson's had to answer before when he wrote the *Dawson's Creek* finale, which concluded the Pacey-Joey-Dawson love triangle, though not in the way he always expected. "[I knew] the way it should end and I held true to it," Williamson says. "I even wrote it, and it didn't feel right. Something was wrong, so I rewrote it."

To that point, *TVD* showrunner Julie Plec says the writers, though they have their opinions, are keeping an open mind about their ending, which is expected to feature Dobrev, despite the fact that she left the show after season 6 and doesn't yet have an official deal to return. "Fans are always talking about endgame as though the endgame has been chosen from minute 1," Plec says. "I don't know that you could talk to a single series creator that would say confidently, 'Where I started is where I finished, and there was no way in hell I was going to stray from that path.' *Dawson*'s being the perfect example."

All Plec and Williamson know is that they aren't working toward a *Sopranos*-style cut to black. "Cynicism doesn't have its way in series finales," Plec says. "My emotional desire when I watch a series end is to be crying and laughing and cheering as the final credits roll, feeling like I just got delivered the happy ending, whether the plot ends happily or not." It sounds like Stelena *and* Delena shippers should get their tissues ready. *—SAMANTHA HIGHFILL*

Anthony Hopkins

CONTENTS

Quantico P. 106 ✦ Bob's Burgers P. 108 ✦ Ash vs Evil Dead P. 108 ✦ NCIS: Los Angeles P. 108 ✦ Son
Madam Secretary P. 113 ✦ The Last Man on Earth P. 113 ✦ The Walking Dead P. 114 ✦ Secrets and

SUNDAY

New Drama

WESTWORLD

OCT. 2
HBO
9PM

By
James Hibberd @JAMESHIBBERD

of Zorn P.108 ✦ Insecure P.110 ✦ Divorce P.112 ✦ Once Upon a Time P.113 ✦ The Simpsons P.113 ✦ Family Guy P.113
Lies P.114 ✦ Shameless P.114 ✦ Elementary P.115 ✦ The Affair P.115 ✦ Masters of Sex P.115

A

AS YOU'RE READING THIS COPY OF EW'S FALL TV PREVIEW ISSUE, THERE ARE certain things you know for sure. That you're human, of course. You have a past that you've experienced and the memories to prove it. The environment around you is real—the product of the natural world and thousands of years of human endeavor. But what if none of that was actually true? What if you're not human, your past was programmed, and you actually exist in a simulated fishbowl that gives you the illusion of free will? That's precisely the existential crisis that the unlikely heroes in *Westworld* are grappling with. ★ Even if you've seen the trailers, you probably haven't figured out what HBO's long-awaited and lavishly produced drama series is about yet. That's okay. You might not know after watching its entire 10-episode first season, either. Everything about *Westworld* is potential misdirection, starting with its Old West-y title. The show is set in the future, but exactly where and when are deliberately obscured. It might not even take place on our planet. ★ Here's what we've learned so far: Based on the 1973 pulp thriller film by *Jurassic Park* author Michael Crichton, *Westworld* is about a futuristic Western theme park stocked with ultrarealistic android "hosts" where guests can fulfill their interactive fantasies. Said fantasies include lots of kinky robot sex and homicidal killing sprees. Then everything goes awry. Originally announced two years ago, the series had a lengthy and laborious birth, requiring a world-building similar to HBO's megahit *Game of Thrones*, only with just a 90-minute film as the starting point. "We don't have George R.R. Martin, we don't have novels," showrunner Jonathan Nolan (*The Dark Knight*) says. "So our joke was we had to write the 'novels' first, then adapt them, and then go and shoot them." Anthony Hopkins, in his first leading role on a U.S. TV series, plays the park's messianic founder, Dr. Ford, a cross between Walt Disney and Dr. Frankenstein. Ed Harris is a twist on Yul Brynner's murderous cowpoke terminator in the original film. Only this time the Man in Black is a human gamer who takes the lawless freedoms in the park to sociopathic extremes. It's the flawed humans, not the bots, who are now the villains. Led by perpetual frontier ingenue Dolores (Evan Rachel Wood) and worldly madam Maeve (Thandie Newton), the hosts are forced to play out variations on the same brutal Wild West adventures for years or even decades, their memories erased and reset after a guest "kills" their bodies. Or as Harris bluntly puts it: "They think and feel, but they don't remember s---.... At least, they're not supposed to." So what happens

(PREVIOUS SPREAD AND THIS SPREAD) JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO (3)

FROM LEFT Mataeo Mingo and Evan Rachel Wood; James Marsden

when the hosts begin to recall their chronically abused past? What will they think and feel—and *do*—about that?

"If you play a game like *Grand Theft Auto*, you don't cry because you ran over a couple characters," says Lisa Joy, who's the showrunner along with her husband, Nolan. "We set up this idea that these hosts could have personhood and establish that connection." That connection is made so effectively that some critics have slammed a scene in the pilot in which a host is sexually assaulted, while viewers might also object to sequences of mass murder and nudity (expect an orgy in the first season). The producers contend the brutal treatment of the hosts is designed to make viewers uncomfortable and to drive home thorny ethical questions: Are we witnessing terrible crimes since the hosts can think and feel? Or is this merely property damage since they're machines? In other words, do robot lives matter? "Humans are these incredible empathy machines, we're incredible at applying it to things that are almost absurd," Nolan notes. "An extraordinary amount of research and development goes into building the intelligence behind those characters. At what point does the line blur? You arrive at this moment in which it gets really complicated."

Throughout, *Westworld* follows three perspectives: the increasingly sentient hosts, the pleasure-seeking theme-park guests, and the clinical Westworld staff, which includes Jeffrey Wright's lead programmer, Bernard. He functions as the show's detective, interrogating glitchy hosts while they're in semiconscious "analysis mode," sitting naked in a chair like creepy broken dolls as he tries to figure out their major malfunctions. For the actors, playing androids is particularly challenging since "every little beat, every moment and every flicker of your eye means something," says Wood, whose inhuman character is actually the park's oldest host, despite her youthful appearance. "I can't even imagine all the different lives that Dolores has lived," she says. "Once you open up that Pandora's box, you realize, 'Oh, there's infinite possibilities here and we really don't know what her story is.' "

Or any of the characters' true stories—at least at first. The experience of watching *Westworld* is a bit like opening one of executive producer J.J. Abrams' famed narrative mystery boxes, then finding there's another mystery box inside—and then another, and another, packed together like Russian nesting dolls. Only these dolls aren't going to passively let you play with them much longer. Yes, we just mixed metaphors there, but if that narrative rail-switching threw you, then you're in for a rough ride on this show. "You'll constantly be off balance," promises star James Marsden, who plays...actually, we're not allowed to tell you who he plays. "You'll think you'll know what's happening and where this show is going, but you'll be wrong."

Even the show's cast was kept in the dark. Hopkins marveled at the experience of writers refusing to tell him his character's story line for the first time in his epic career. "I said to Jon, 'What happens?'" the Oscar winner recalls. "Jon said, 'I can't tell you.' So I said, 'What happens next week?' And he said, 'I won't tell you.' Then they send me the next script, and I think, 'Oh, this is interesting.' "

But at one point, the scripts stopped coming. The L.A.-based production was halted in January as showrunners wrestled with the last episodes. The much-publicized hiatus was less about figuring out the season's ending than avoiding the struggle of shows like Abrams' other cult series *Lost*, where producers finished season 1 without knowing where the story was going. "It wasn't about getting the first 10 episodes done, it was about mapping out what the next five or six years are going to be," reveals Marsden. "We wanted everything in line this season so that when the very last episode airs, we had all the ducks in a row."

Those future seasons are the most secretive part of this highly secretive show's plan, but Nolan gave us a hint. "We wanted a big story, with each season representing a phase change in the host and human relationship," he said. "It's about the origin of a new species and how that would play out." So don't expect a new batch of new guests arriving in the park every year. "[This season] is one chapter in the narrative," Nolan says. "We didn't want the *Fantasy Island* version of *Westworld*." After all, repeating different versions of the same premise over and over again would be downright...robotic.

> **"YOU'LL CONSTANTLY BE OFF BALANCE. YOU'LL THINK YOU'LL KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AND WHERE THIS SHOW IS GOING, BUT YOU'LL BE WRONG."** —JAMES MARSDEN

REINVENTING...

Quan

| ***SEASON 2*** | SEPT. 25 | 10PM | ABC

Priyanka Chopra, Jason Tottenham, and Blair Underwood

GIOVANNI RUFINO/ABC

SOMETHING FEELS A BIT... *off* on the set of *Quantico*. Sure, there's an instructor wandering through a classroom doling out assignments, and yes, Priyanka Chopra's Alex stands among the students listening attentively, but the instructor isn't talking about the FBI, and—*gasp!*—there's not a henley to be found.

Welcome to the Farm, the CIA's grueling, high-tech boot camp where Alex—after being let go by the FBI at the end of the terrorism thriller's first season—has been training. Today's lesson? Assessment, or the ability to memorize and analyze every aspect of a room as soon as an operative walks in. Even Alex looks worried as she scans the itinerary for the day's drill—a difficult scenario that drops recruits in the woods, tracked by drones—and hesitates before leaving the classroom, soaking in as much as she can. "The CIA is clandestine, so it's all about deceit, evasiveness, and lying, but Alex is all about the truth, finding the truth, and being good," says Chopra. "She's suddenly outside of her comfort zone." She laughs. "I don't know how Alex is going to do it. I'm nervous for her!"

She should be: *Quantico*'s second season—affectionately called "Quan2co" by the cast and crew, despite no longer being set anywhere near the eponymous FBI academy—hits the reset button on more than just its locale. Showrunner Joshua Safran says he'll be dialing down some of the first-season subplots, including its on-again, off-again relationships, which made the show fluffier than intended. "When the show was picked up, the expectation of some people [at ABC] was that it would be a *Grey's Anatomy*-type sexy soap," Safran recalls. "Although I enjoy those shows, that wasn't my goal."

Quantico was poised to be the breakout hit of its class, but viewership slipped from more than 7 million for the premiere to less than 4 million for the finale. On the heels of ABC's internal shake-up, during which entertainment president Paul Lee was ousted in early 2016, Safran decided to return the series to his original vision of a twisty thriller, light on melodrama. He also bridged the gap between script and screen by moving production from Montreal to New York's Silvercup Studios. In his office there, next to the writers' room that now sits just three floors above the new set, he's been reworking *Quantico*'s tone. "Season 2 deals with issues of morality, about the lines you can and cannot cross," he explains. "That has made the show more mature, more introspective." He pauses. "I know I'm making it sound dull and boring, but it's not. It's still got fun in it, it's still got sex in it, but no one's hopping into bed with each other every episode. Season 2

tico

is what the pilot promised. It's more like the pilot in every way."

In other words, *Quantico* won't be making a *complete* 180. "It's not a reboot, and it's not a sequel. It's like the next novel in a book series," Safran says, citing the Harry Potter and James Bond franchises as examples. "The characters were going on to the next year, the next phase, the next journey.... I could have forced [*Quantico*'s characters to continue at the FBI], but to do that again would have seen diminishing returns." To help connect the seasons and illustrate how the CIA and FBI interact, Safran brought Miranda (Aunjanue Ellis), Shelby (Johanna Braddy), Ryan (Jake McLaughlin), and twins Nimah and Raina (Yasmine Al Massri) back for a second round. Characters missing from the season 2 cast who survived the first season—like Caleb (Graham Rogers)—have the potential to reappear down the line. (Keep your fingers crossed, Shaleb shippers!)

The two-timeline structure has also survived the transition but pared down. About a year after her CIA training, Alex will be caught in a terrorist event in New York that takes place over a single day, a tweak made to help the jump between the present (training at the Farm) and the future easier to understand. "Present Alex knows something is wrong," Safran explains. "Future Alex is still dealing with having known that something is wrong. I can't say anything more than that." Whatever happens, at least Alex won't be on the run again. "We can't *exactly* do the same thing," Chopra says. "That would look a little silly."

Besides, the present timeline has enough to keep Alex guessing. At the Farm, she'll face some tough competition in her classmates, including thief Harry Doyle (Russell Tovey), driven lawyer Dayana Mampasi (Pearl Thusi), and daring photojournalist León Velez (Aarón Diaz). "Don't believe anything you see," Diaz teases, smirking. "We're *all* deceptive." Leading this cagey pack of wannabe spies is instructor Owen Hall (Blair Underwood), who may have a few secrets of his own. "He was one of the top operatives in the CIA," Underwood says, "but how he left and why is a mystery."

Talk of secrets and spies may be back, but the henleys, the ubiquitous blue shirts the FBI recruits wore throughout season 1, have been abandoned for *Quan2co*. "I *really* miss them," Chopra deadpans, before leaning in. "Actually," she confesses, "I'm happy I don't have to wear them anymore." The star of *Quantico* dislikes henleys? There really *is* something off about this set. —*SHIRLEY LI*

BELOW
Russell Tovey and Underwood; Pearl Thusi, Tovey, and Chopra

JONATHAN WENK/ABC (2)

New & Returning Shows

BOB'S BURGERS

▶ | *SEASON 7* | 7:30PM | FOX

Are you a Tina or a Louise? Doesn't matter! They both get tantalizing story lines, starting with the dreamy premiere. "Louise is suffering from a fever and has this dream where she meets all of her toys," showrunner Loren Bouchard says. "I should add that it's also a musical." Meanwhile, in an episode called "Ex MachTina," an injured Tina attends school via a remote-controlled robot. Romance ensues: "Jimmy Jr., her on-again, off-again flame, is able to talk to the robot more easily than he can talk to her." And as always, there will be guest voices galore. Visitors include Amy Schumer as a strange toy-store customer and John Oliver as a showbiz cat agent. "It's a real thing," Bouchard assures us. "Somebody's got to represent these animals!" **SEPT. 25**

ASH VS EVIL DEAD

▶ | *SEASON 2* | 8PM | STARZ

When ghoul-battling Ash Williams (Bruce Campbell) returns to his hometown of Elk Grove, Mich., he receives a less-than-warm welcome from the locals, who blame him for many of the deaths detailed in the *Evil Dead* films. Our chain-saw-handed hero even gets the cold shoulder from his father, Brock, played by *Six Million Dollar Man* star and TV icon Lee Majors. "He's none too pleased to see him," says Majors. "Brock owned the thriving Elk Grove hardware store, but ever since Ash was labeled as a serial killer, the business tanked." Dad also believes his offspring's evil-spirit fighting to be so much hooey. But that changes when he faces the gory mayhem that inevitably surrounds Ash. "I didn't know that they have these machines that really splatter blood," continues the actor. "I've never seen that much blood in my entire career!" **OCT. 2**

NCIS: LOS ANGELES

▶ | *SEASON 8* | 8PM | CBS

The pressure is on for the team to find the mole within their organization. Disappointed with operations manager Hetty Lange (Linda Hunt) and assistant director Owen Granger (Miguel Ferrer), Washington sends in new leadership, which ends in tragedy. "The team is still reeling from the shake-up when a mission goes awry, leaving one of their own severely injured," says EP R. Scott Gemmill. "It forces Callen [Chris O'Donnell] and Sam [LL Cool J] to question their actions." But the team can rest assured that Hetty will have their backs. Teases Gemmill: "Hetty will sacrifice everything to protect them all." **OCT. 2**

ASH VS EVIL DEAD Bruce Campbell and Lucy Lawless

Son of Zorn

▶ | ***NEW COMEDY*** | SEPT. 11 | 8PM | FOX

OF ALL THE LEADING MEN on TV, only one is secure enough to rock a loincloth and spread cream cheese on his bagel using a sword. Yes, this guy is pretty animated—but that's just the half of it.

Introducing *Son of Zorn*, a hybrid comedy executive-produced by *LEGO Movie* overlords Christopher Miller and Phil Lord that blends live action and cartoon à la *Who Framed Roger Rabbit*. Zorn (voiced by Jason Sudeikis) is a hulking He-Man-esque warrior from Zephyria who returns to live-action California to reconnect with his teenage son, Alan (Johnny Pemberton), and ex-wife, Edie (Cheryl Hines), who is engaged to an online psychology professor, Craig (Tim Meadows). And chronicling his acclimation to life in Orange County is no easy feat. The L.A.-based actors film parts of scenes opposite 6'7" Zorn stand-in Dan Lippert to establish the proper eye line for when the camera is on them and do additional takes without Lippert so Zorn can be inserted later. (An animation supervisor provides guidance on set, while Sudeikis records his dialogue in New York.) Acting with a cartoon poses challenges. "Sometimes we're doing a scene and there's a guy on the floor with a long green glove on, holding a cup," notes Hines. "So you are talking to nobody and trying not to be distracted by the guy on the ground with the long green glove."

Technology aside, *Zorn* is a fish-out-of-water tale (if this fish has drunk the blood of its enemies out of their children's skulls). "There's a moment where you see him trying to use a vending machine, and instead of putting money in, he's trying to fit a severed hand covered in jewels in the machine," says exec producer Sally Bradford McKenna. "It's spitting it out, and he flattens it out on the top of the machine and tries to stick it back in." Cartoon warriors—they're just like us! (Moves to 8:30 p.m. on Sept. 25.) —*DAN SNIERSON*

SON OF ZORN: FOX; ASH VS EVIL DEAD: STARZ ENTERTAINMENT

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ISSA RAE'S POP CULTURE INSPIRATION *for* INSECURE

| *NEW COMEDY* | OCT. 9 | 10:30PM | HBO

EVER SINCE HER WEB SERIES *THE MISADVENTURES OF AWKWARD BLACK GIRL* DEBUTED back in 2011, Issa Rae has been one of comedy's freshest, most intriguing voices. In her upcoming HBO series, *Insecure*, the 31-year-old takes that talent and wit to the next level as star, writer, and EP (phew!) and serves up a story that borrows from her own experiences navigating race, relationships, and career. (Hint: Even when you're a best-selling author and buds with Larry Wilmore, life is still awkward.) The Los Angeles native filled us in on the pop culture touchstones, from the Fresh Prince to Drake, that have helped shape her TV debut. —*RAY RAHMAN*

TV SHOWS

'90S SITCOMS Nineties black TV influenced me—all those shows made me feel like, "Oh, I can do it." *A Different World* **(1)** made me want to go to college. Seeing black people in college was really cool; it was just a different dimension to us. I loved *Fresh Prince* and *Living Single* for their comedy and wanted friends like [the characters]. I can really identify with Will Smith; he was like the Everyman in a great way that I hadn't seen a black person do before. That block of television, just a bunch of black people on TV, made me want to write for those characters specifically.

MOVIES

LOVE & BASKETBALL It was the first movie I saw that was set in my neighborhood—just regular black people living life, which is kind of what we're trying to do with *Insecure*. Seeing my neighborhood in that light...that was really cool, and I remember wanting to do that in my own work.

***THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL* (2)** I love Wes Anderson. Even just stylistically, I love what he does with color, symmetry, and the perkiness of his characters. He draws you into his world, and it's kind of timeless, too.

MUSIC

DRAKE (3) We used to have a Drake lyric in every episode of *Awkward Black Girl*. It was my own personal Easter egg. He has a way of being the soundtrack to my life. He has a real knack for knowing what's going on, kind of like a music psychic.

LIL' KIM It took me a while to embrace her because I was a prude child. I was kind of goody-goody, and her lyrics were mad nasty. Now I find myself fast-forwarding 20 years later with the most pottiest of mouths, with a show that doesn't hold back in terms of how women talk to each other and how we talk about sex.

BOOKS

BERNICE L. MCFADDEN'S SUGAR SERIES (4) Her books make cameos throughout [*Insecure*] just because I love how her main protagonist is a dark-skinned black woman. You'll see that there are two dark-skinned black leads in this show, something that hasn't been done much as a comedic duo. She has a great voice and a way of telling stories that feels so raw, so real, and she uses a lot of research to make you feel like, "Oh, am I reading fiction or am I reading nonfiction?"

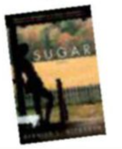
MINDY KALING (5) I remember reading her book, *Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* It was the first time I read an autobiography and was like, "Oh my gosh, I know this girl. I am this girl." And she's also been an amazing supporter, too, in terms of encouraging *Awkward Black Girl* and my own book and expressing excitement to see *Insecure*.

1

2

3

4



5

RAE: ROGER KISBY/GETTY IMAGES; *A DIFFERENT WORLD*: GENE TRINDL; *THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL*: MARTIN SCALI; DRAKE: PARAS GRIFFIN/WIREIMAGE.COM; KALING: JEROD HARRIS/WIREIMAGE.COM

#haveKINDLEwillTRAVEL
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| ***NEW COMEDY*** | OCT. 9 | 10PM | HBO

Divorce

Sarah Jessica Parker

SO MUCH OF TV, MOVIES, poetry, and pop songs has been devoted to telling the story of two people falling in love and happily-ever-after-ing into marriage. But what happens when that turns out not to be the end of the story? Enter *Divorce*, about one couple—played by Sarah Jessica Parker and Thomas Haden Church—struggling through an increasingly messy separation after 17 years of marriage. "A lot of times with a show about married people, you know they're going to stay married and there's a certain red line that neither will cross," says Paul Simms (*NewsRadio*), who exec-produces with *Divorce*'s creator, Sharon Horgan (*Catastrophe*). "This is about genuine conflict with real consequences."

Indeed, the events that unspool in the pilot kick off an avalanche effect: It not only introduces us to Frances and Robert, their children, and the general ennui of their marital union, but it also includes the discovery of infidelity (*Flight of the Conchords* fans, you're in for a treat), a drunken party that ends with a nearly fatal heart attack, and an Old English sheepdog with nowhere to live. And by episode 4, it's clear that what started as a grudgingly amicable break will soon take a much darker turn.

Divorce also marks the return of Sarah Jessica Parker—who serves double duty as an exec producer on the show—to television for the first time in over a decade since *Sex and the City* went off the air. "She's unbelievably talented. I'm not sure there are too many people who can do what she does—she can break your heart," says Horgan. In 2014, when the women were set up on a kind of creative blind date by HBO (with whom Parker had a first-look deal), they found they were both intrigued in exploring the narrative of a long marriage. (Both women are married—Horgan to entrepreneur Jeremy Rainbird and Parker to actor Matthew Broderick.) "I don't think either of us wanted something frivolous," says Horgan. "I love ridiculous comedy, but I think we were both interested in delving a bit deeper." (*Catastrophe* fans, don't worry about Horgan splitting from her Amazon comedy—seasons 3 and 4 have already been picked up.) It was the procedural aspects of divorce—and to show "how deeply awful and complex and disruptive the whole thing is"—that appealed to her. "It has a natural narrative to it—it's never just about two people wanting to part. It's usually more complicated, and we liked the idea of writing something where you switch allegiance throughout," she notes. "You look at any couple, and you think you know their dynamic—who the needy one is, who the philanderer is. You make a lot of assumptions, and here there is no hero and there's no villain."

Most of the pilot was shot just north of New York City, in Westchester County amid the particularly brutal winter of early 2015. "I was there in my massive boots and coat, and then another coat and hot-water bottles. And [the actresses] are in dresses and flimsy jackets and managing to move their faces," says Horgan. All those cold piles of snow worked great as a visual metaphor but proved a challenge when production returned nine months later. "It was constant anxiety," says Simms. "Usually you're hoping for not-bad weather; we were always constantly rooting for terrible weather." But it was sunny in spirit on the other side of the camera. "I had a lot of I'm-not-worthy moments," says Horgan. "I would stand by the monitor watching and going, 'This is good!'" She laughs. "And then I'd remember, 'Oh, s---! This is *our* show!'"

—*SARA VILKOMERSON*

CRAIG BLANKENHORN/HBO

ONCE UPON A TIME

⊙ | *SEASON 6* | **8PM** | **ABC**

The world of *OUAT* has expanded once again, thanks to the introduction of the Land of Untold Stories. These new characters “have left their own stories for various reasons—they didn’t like how they ended, how they were going, or they needed to be on the run,” EP Edward Kitsis explains. “Emma [Jennifer Morrison] and the heroes are going to help a whole bunch of people finish their story.” Those in need include the Count of Monte Cristo (Craig Horner), who will appear alongside newbies Jafar (Oded Fehr) and Aladdin (Deniz Akdeniz). Despite an influx of new faces, the season puts a focus back on small-town stories. “Snow [Ginnifer Goodwin] is coming to the realization that there is no definitive happy ending—*this* is their happy ending,” says Kitsis. Meanwhile, the inner demons Regina (Lana Parrilla) has been grappling with come to life—literally—in the form of a separate Evil Queen (also Parrilla), who sets her sights on thwarting their happy endings once and for all. “She is absolutely going to be as evil, if not *more* evil, than we remember,” teases Kitsis. **SEPT. 25**

THE SIMPSONS

⊙ | *SEASON 28* | **8PM** | **FOX**

What was Mr. Burns like as a child? We’ll find out in the season premiere, which begins with the ruthless tycoon trying to smooth over a painful childhood memory by staging a musical at the Springfield Bowl, and in a flashback scene, we meet his mom, played by none other than Amy Schumer. “We learn something that might have made him the man he is,” hints EP Al Jean. “We discover he was the equivalent of an internet fail sensation in, like, 1917.” The show’s 600th(!) episode is the annual Treehouse of Horror spectacle, which boasts a parody of dystopian movies like *Mad Max* and *The Hunger Games*. “We say, ‘Okay, contestants…’ as they’re about to start, and Ralph is immediately killed,” says Jean. “Wiggum was in the bathroom, and he’s like, ‘What? What did I miss?’” **SEPT. 25**

FAMILY GUY

⊙ | *SEASON 14* | **9PM** | **FOX**

More tunes for this toon: In the premiere, Stewie and Brian form a folk duo and perform “Mama Liked to Party While You Were in Her Belly (Chris’s Song),” and in another episode, Peter, Cleveland, and Joe try to save a dating-app-obsessed Quagmire with the song “Tinder Makes You Gross.” Speaking of Quagmire/sex/gross things, Peter acts as his buddy’s pimp. “Once you have the title ‘American Gigg-olo,’ how do you *not* write that episode?” says EP Rich Appel. Meanwhile, a (semi-)educational episode reimagines *The Great Gatsby*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, and *Of Mice and Men*. Quips Appel: “Any high school sophomore can watch these episodes and forgo the books, and they’ll know everything they need to know.” **SEPT. 25**

MADAM SECRETARY Bebe Neuwirth, Geoffrey Arend, Téa Leoni, Eric Bergen, Patina Miller, and Sebastian Arcelus

MADAM SECRETARY

SEASON 3 | **9PM** | **CBS**

Will Secretary of State Elizabeth McCord (Téa Leoni) agree to be President Dalton’s (Keith Carradine) running mate? We’ll find out in the political drama’s premiere, which skips ahead a few months, throwing us into the middle of election season. “The decision of being vice president is one of those things that she’ll be grappling with in the beginning,” says EP Barbara Hall, adding that the twist-filled election will take up the first half of the season. Regardless of how her role changes, McCord will contend with “classic *Madam Secretary*” international events each week, including environmental-activism protests and a regime change in Algeria. “We have that dovetailed with the election,” says Hall. Someone’s gonna be busy. **OCT. 2**

2 TRUTHS AND A LIE

THE LAST MAN ON EARTH

⊙ | *SEASON 3* | **SEPT. 25** | **9:30PM** | **FOX**

WILL FORTE’S POSTAPOCALYPTIC COMEDY ended its second season by dangling a few question marks off a Malibu cliff: Who are the two hazmat-suited, gun-wielding individuals headed to our survivors’ shore with Pat (Mark Boone Junior)? Was that the last we will see of Mike (Jason Sudeikis)? And—most important—when will Phil (Forte) decide to open Mike’s fart jar? Answers start flowing soon, but until then, Forte, the star/creator/exec producer, will tide you over and tempt you with these three hints, two of them totally true, and one wildly inaccurate. Start racking your brain… —*DAN SNIERSON*

1. Gail Klosterman (Mary Steenburgen) becomes a mom.
2. Mr. T comes to Malibu.
3. The world’s population is cut in half.

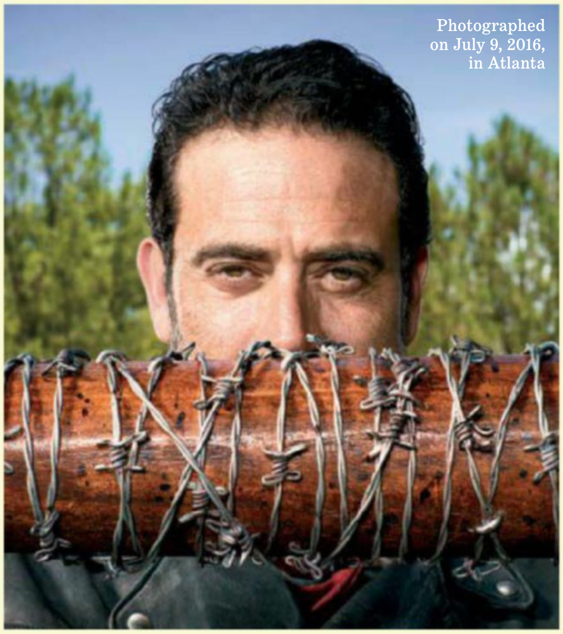
Mel Rodriguez and Will Forte

MADAM SECRETARY: SARAH SHATZ/CBS; THE LAST MAN ON EARTH: KEVIN ESTRADA/FOX

Q+A

JEFFREY DEAN MORGAN OF *The Walking Dead*

⊙ | *SEASON 7* | OCT. 23 | 9PM | AMC



Photographed on July 9, 2016, in Atlanta

THE NEGAN ERA HAS BEGUN. The infamous *Walking Dead* comic-book villain jumped from page to screen in the zombie drama's season 6 finale, but what viewers—not to mention Rick Grimes & Co.—saw there was but a mere taste of the mayhem set to be unleashed. We chatted with Negan himself, played by Jeffrey Dean Morgan, to get some scoop on what to expect from season 7's big bad. —*DALTON ROSS*

Watching you on set, it seems like your Negan is a little bit less manic than the comic version, but with this disarming charm that could erupt into violence at any second. Do you notice any differences between your Negan and the original?

There is this charm and devil-may-care attitude, but you're going to do it my way. And he does it with a smile. But when that violence comes, there is no doubting what this guy is going to do and how he's going to do it. And I think we've established that very early on: At any given moment you can die in front of Negan. What I hope is that it does make him scarier. After the premiere airs, I think the audience is going to get a very good idea of what Negan is capable of. So if there's a scene where he's smiling and people are like, "What the f---? He's not a badass," well, just watch, because at any given minute Lucille [Negan's barbed-wire-covered baseball bat] is going to take your f---ing head off, and he's going to do it with that same smile.

Negan had this epic introduction in the finale. So what comes next?

This introduction will continue through the first episode, for sure—it's Negan setting the rules and telling everybody this is how it's going to be, and if you don't follow these rules, this is what's going to happen. The premiere is continuing that speech in a way that I don't think the audience is going to be ready for. Not only are you going to see who is on the receiving end of Lucille, but you will see how Negan's mind is working—and it is constantly working.

What was it like the first time you got to hold Lucille?

It was awesome. There's something about her, especially when there's blood dripping off her. She has a certain beauty. And for me she's an extension of Negan. They become one in these scenes together. There's a thing that he has with Lucille, and it's as close to love as maybe Negan will ever have. But yeah, the first time I held her I knew—this is it.

What's it like wearing that leather jacket in 97-degree Atlanta heat?

I mean, it's *very* hot. When we shot the [season finale] in November, I was like, "This is great!" I was so happy, not thinking, "Oh, July in Atlanta."

How does Negan see this new world?

We're going to find this out, and in doing so, we'll find out how his life has been since the zombie apocalypse started and how he came to be who he is. Negan rules with an iron fist and a sense of humor. He's a very charismatic guy. We're going to get some backstory very quickly on how the Saviors and Negan operate. By midseason, a lot of those questions will be answered.

SECRETS AND LIES

⊙ | *SEASON 2* | 9PM | ABC

"So many more twists and turns" is how Juliette Lewis describes the sophomore season. Put another way: more secrets and more lies. This year, the Charlotte, N.C.-set anthology series follows Lewis' Detective Cornell—the only returning main character—investigating the death of a woman from a wealthy family. Showrunner Barbie Kligman explains she wanted to portray the Warners (a family played by actors including Jordana Brewster, Michael Ealy, Terry O'Quinn, and AnnaLynne McCord) in a positive way that viewers could relate to, but at the same time it was important for her to unravel their darker side. "There's something simmering," Kligman says. And even though the Warner family mystery will be the main focus, Cornell's backstory will be explored, too. "Her personal life is full of complications and drama," Lewis says. And maybe a few secrets...and lies? **SEPT. 25**

SHAMELESS

⊙ | *SEASON 7* | 9PM | SHOWTIME

Showtime's long-running, raucous rumination on poverty launches its seventh season with a new status quo for the once-acquiescent, now-independent Fiona (Emmy Rossum), who becomes manager of the diner after Sean's (Dermot Mulroney) exit. "She's starting to think about what making money actually means and how she can't take care of her family anymore and still have a business," says Rossum, who also makes her directorial debut with episode 4 this season. It may help that there's no man in Fiona's life this year, much to Rossum's own shameless glee. "We're on episode 6, and there's no boyfriend yet," she says. Let's be clear. "It's not like there's no sex...but there's no boyfriend. There's a lot of Tinder." **OCT. 2**

PHOTOGRAPH BY MATTHIAS CLAMER

ELEMENTARY Lucy Liu and Jonny Lee Miller

ELEMENTARY

▶ | *SEASON 5* | 10PM | CBS

Sherlock and Watson are about to celebrate an anniversary, but will it be their last? With Joan Watson (Lucy Liu) now having worked longer as a detective than as a sober companion, Sherlock Holmes (Jonny Lee Miller) begins to fear her professional wanderlust. "She does miss the aspect of helping people," Liu admits. Enter reformed criminal Shinwell Johnson (*True Blood*'s Nelsan Ellis), a character from the Sir Arthur Conan Doyle canon whom Sherlock encourages Joan to assist. But as the duo come to learn more about the dark, troubled past of her former patient, EP Rob Doherty hints, "there may be a difference of opinion on whether keeping him in their orbit is such a good idea." **OCT. 2**

THE AFFAIR

▶ | *SEASON 3* | 10PM | SHOWTIME

Last season, *The Affair* introduced two new points of view: Spurned partners Cole (Joshua Jackson) and Helen (Maura Tierney) joined Noah (Dominic West) and Alison (Ruth Wilson) in the telling of this twisty story of love, betrayal, and murder. This season ups the ante—it begins with a time jump into the future, a new mystery to untangle, and yet another perspective, that of Noah's new love interest, played by French actress Irène Jacob. Creator Sarah Treem says that they circle the same question in the writers' room: "We're always asking ourselves, What is love? Is love a product of time and place and circumstance? Or is love something true that can't be undone? This season we kind of tried to answer those questions." Tall order. **NOV. 20**

Maura Tierney

A FRESH FACE ON

Masters of Sex

▶ | *SEASON 4* | SEPT. 11 | 10PM | SHOWTIME

Niecy Nash

SEASON 4 OF SHOWTIME'S SEX-pioneer drama boasts no more shame and no more rules, but someone's got to keep things in line. Enter new cast member Niecy Nash as Louise Bell, the tough leader of an AA group who has no trouble facing down the indomitable Bill Masters (Michael Sheen) when he's court-ordered to the group after a boozy car accident. "Louise matches him toe for toe and is not taking any of his grand antics," says Nash, who teases a combustible chemistry with Sheen. "She decides to take him on as her personal project, and the tables end up turning—she needs him in a big way." For Nash, who's already riding high from her second Emmy nomination (for HBO's axed comedy *Getting On*) and the fall return of her scene-stealing Denise on Fox's *Scream Queens* (which she's filming alongside *Masters*), her appointment on Showtime only adds to the deliciousness of her big year. "Let me just say, I was a fan and had seen every episode, so that made it even sweeter when *Masters of Sex* came calling," says Nash, 46, who was already wise to the illicit activities she might be asked to partake in. "The first thing I said to my manager was 'Oh, Lord, everybody on that show is naked. Do I need to get a boob job?'" Happily, it's the one job she *hasn't* booked this fall. *—MARC SNETIKER*

SUNDAY WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Natalie Abrams, Chancellor Agard, Clark Collis, and Dalene Rovenstine

ELEMENTARY: MICHAEL PARMELEE/CBS; *THE AFFAIR*: PHIL CARUSO/SHOWTIME; *MASTERS OF SEX*: WARREN FELDMAN/SHOWTIME

FALL TV
PREVIEW
2016

STREAMING

Alexis Bledel and Lauren Graham photographed on March 13, 2016, on the L.A. set

CONTENTS

Chance P.120 ✦ Transparent P.122 ✦ Bajillion Dollar Propertie$ P.124 ✦ Crisis in Six Scenes P.124 ✦
Red Oaks P.129 ✦ Startup P.129 ✦ The Mindy Project P.129 ✦ Black Mirror P.129

Returning Drama

GILMORE GIRLS:
A YEAR IN THE LIFE

NOV. 25
NETFLIX

By
Danielle Nussbaum
@DANIELLENUSS

Photograph by
Chris Craymer

WINTER, SPRING, SUMMER, or fall, all you have to do is… wait nine years—and Netflix will be there to bring you a four-episode revival of the cult-classic dramedy, helmed by creator Amy Sherman-Palladino. *Gilmore Girls*, still thirstily binged on the reg, gave us a home in the quirky hamlet of Stars Hollow, stealing our hearts with pop culture zingers and the endearing mother-daughter relationship between Lorelai and Rory Gilmore. Superfans, you've got a friend in Lauren Graham and Alexis Bledel, who let us into the gazebo of secrecy to chat about ushering in a new era of *Gilmore* worship.

What was it like when you got the first script?

ALEXIS I read the first three in one sitting. It was so easy to jump back in and get to work. Which is lucky—because I had to the next day.

LAUREN Part of what was surreal was that we didn't have much time to look forward to it and prepare. We had wanted to do it for a while, but the amount of time in which it became a reality was really short.

Did Amy or her director husband, Dan Palladino, ask you to watch any old episodes in preparation?

LAUREN No. I think they looked at season 7 or maybe at least had people tell them what happened. [*Amy and Dan left the show before its final season due to a contract dispute.*] I know Amy was pleased that certain things had not happened, because it gave them a little more freedom.

In your heart of hearts, do you consider season 6 the last season?

LAUREN I consider *this* our final season. This is an auteur's project; it's not just something that someone else can easily take over. My boss from *Parenthood* [Jason Katims] said he'd be interested in reuniting that cast, and half the people were excited and half were like, "Oh, but it ended so well, why would you?" We just didn't have that here.

There's a reboot or revival every 20 seconds these days, and there's so much vitriol for all of them. Why do you think *Gilmore Girls* has been immune?

LAUREN It doesn't feel like a money grab. There were perfectly reasonable artistic reasons to return: Our creator didn't finish it.

Goliath P.124 ✦ Marvel's Luke Cage P.124 ✦ The Crown P.126 ✦ One Mississippi P.128 ✦ Good Girls Revolt P.128 ✦ Haters Back Off P.128

Kelly Bishop, Graham, and Bledel

ALEXIS So much time passed that nobody really expected it to happen. We got this opportunity, and it was like a new idea that fans would get to see the show again.

Why do you think it begins in winter?

ALEXIS The holidays are a good time to pick up with this story because families usually come together around that time.

LAUREN I always assumed that it was the Carole King song [lyric]: "Winter, spring, summer, and fall."

ALEXIS Oh, of course!

We reunite with the Gilmores as they mourn the loss of patriarch Richard. [Actor Edward Herrmann died in 2014.] How do your characters react to his death?

ALEXIS Rory is really worried about Emily [Kelly Bishop]. She wants to make sure she has everything she needs. She leans on Lorelai emotionally when she's grieving herself. I'm not sure she registers a correlation between things—but because the funeral brings her back to Stars Hollow, she just happens to be reevaluating her career, and it integrates her back into the life that she grew up in.

LAUREN It's massive. I always think of Lorelai as having arrested development. This causes a major questioning of "What am I doing here, and why haven't certain things moved forward?" It affects her relationship with her mom and her love relationship. Her big revelation has everything to do with her dad; it's really the framework for the whole journey.

Rory and Lorelai spent a good amount of the original series dealing with love and romance. Do you think they believe in "the one"?

LAUREN [*Big pause*] Ye...s. I'm going with yes. For Lorelai.

ALEXIS Rory probably thinks the same. I think...yes?

LAUREN But their main strength is that they have themselves and each other. The show is sneakily feminist in that it's always been great for them to have love, but they're also okay when they don't. It's why we sometimes bristle at "What team are you on?!" It's like, "It doesn't matter."

But fans are so attached to Rory's boyfriends. Did you assume Rory was going to end up with one of her past dudes?

ALEXIS I didn't even think about it! I was wondering what she had accomplished in her career. [*Lauren laughs.*]

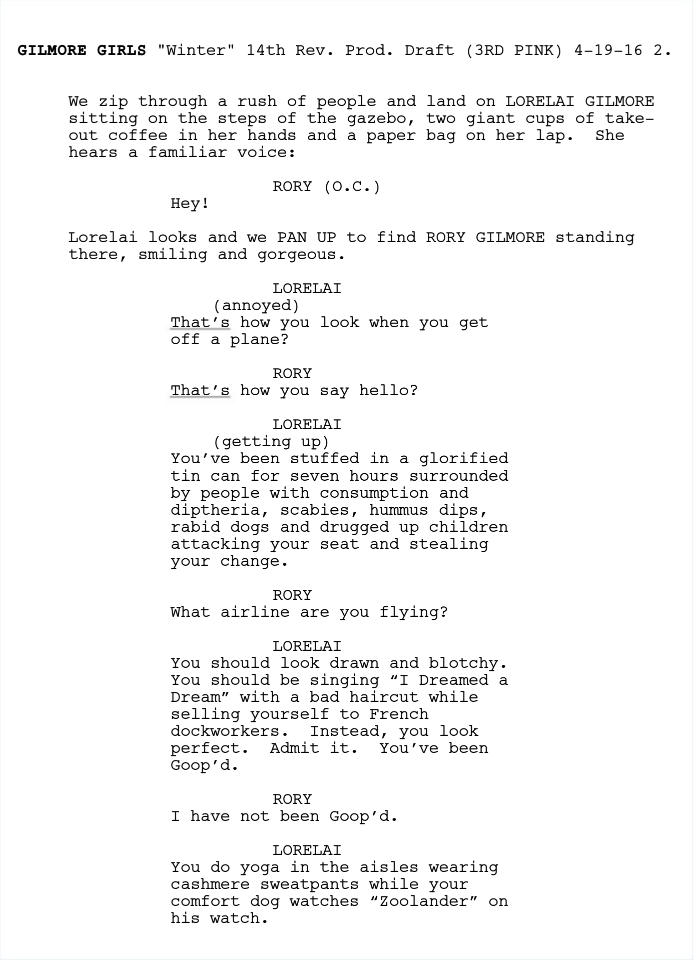
Here at EW we're split. I think Lorelai doesn't necessarily end up with Luke; a lot of people just assume she does.

LAUREN I figured they were together—I just didn't know to what degree. The scariest part of this: It's a big responsibility when you have people who love this show the way they do. My fear was "Will it live up to my hope for it?" And on top of that, "Can it possibly answer the hopes and dreams of the people who've supported it over the years?" And it miraculously did. Never mind who's together and who's not, I just wanted it to feel like the old show.

ROBERT VOETS/NETFLIX

AND THE FIRST FOUR WORDS ARE...

MOST PEOPLE WANT TO GET THE LAST LAUGH, BUT LAUREN Graham was more interested in the first one, which came courtesy of a jab at Gwyneth Paltrow's lifestyle brand Goop. "I just felt like that's so quintessentially Amy and Lorelai," recalls Graham. "It was then that I was like, 'We're going to be okay.'" Here, creator Amy Sherman-Palladino shares the very first page of the script for the first episode, "Winter."



GILMORE GIRLS "Winter" 14th Rev. Prod. Draft (3RD PINK) 4-19-16 2.

We zip through a rush of people and land on LORELAI GILMORE sitting on the steps of the gazebo, two giant cups of take-out coffee in her hands and a paper bag on her lap. She hears a familiar voice:

RORY (O.C.)
Hey!

Lorelai looks and we PAN UP to find RORY GILMORE standing there, smiling and gorgeous.

LORELAI
(annoyed)
That's how you look when you get off a plane?

RORY
That's how you say hello?

LORELAI
(getting up)
You've been stuffed in a glorified tin can for seven hours surrounded by people with consumption and diptheria, scabies, hummus dips, rabid dogs and drugged up children attacking your seat and stealing your change.

RORY
What airline are you flying?

LORELAI
You should look drawn and blotchy. You should be singing "I Dreamed a Dream" with a bad haircut while selling yourself to French dockworkers. Instead, you look perfect. Admit it. You've been Goop'd.

RORY
I have not been Goop'd.

LORELAI
You do yoga in the aisles wearing cashmere sweatpants while your comfort dog watches "Zoolander" on his watch.

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Q+A

HUGH LAURIE OF

Chance

| ***NEW DRAMA*** | **OCT. 19** | **HULU**

HUGH LAURIE IS A SELF-described meddler. "I can't stop myself. I think it probably comes from a lack of confidence in my own ability, so I fool with things that don't concern me," the 57-year-old says. But Hollywood seems to have plenty of confidence in Laurie. In just six months, the Brit has steamed up the Oval Office on HBO's *Veep* and earned an Emmy nod—his ninth to date—for his villainous turn on AMC's *The Night Manager*; now he's an EP and star of *Chance*, Hulu's new San Francisco-set noir, which got an initial two-season order. Based on the 2014 novel by Kem Nunn, *Chance* stars Laurie as Dr. Eldon Chance, a consulting forensic neuropsychiatrist. (Sound familiar?) But if anyone can reconceive the role of doctor after having played one for eight seasons, it's Laurie. Chance, for all the good he does, has some skeletons in his closet (naturally), and he becomes consumed by the world of a mysterious patient portrayed by Gretchen Mol. The drama is dark and eerie, and dances around what's real and what's possibly imagined. "I love it for its melancholy, but it remains to be seen whether or not anyone else will," Laurie says. We have a sneaking suspicion they will...

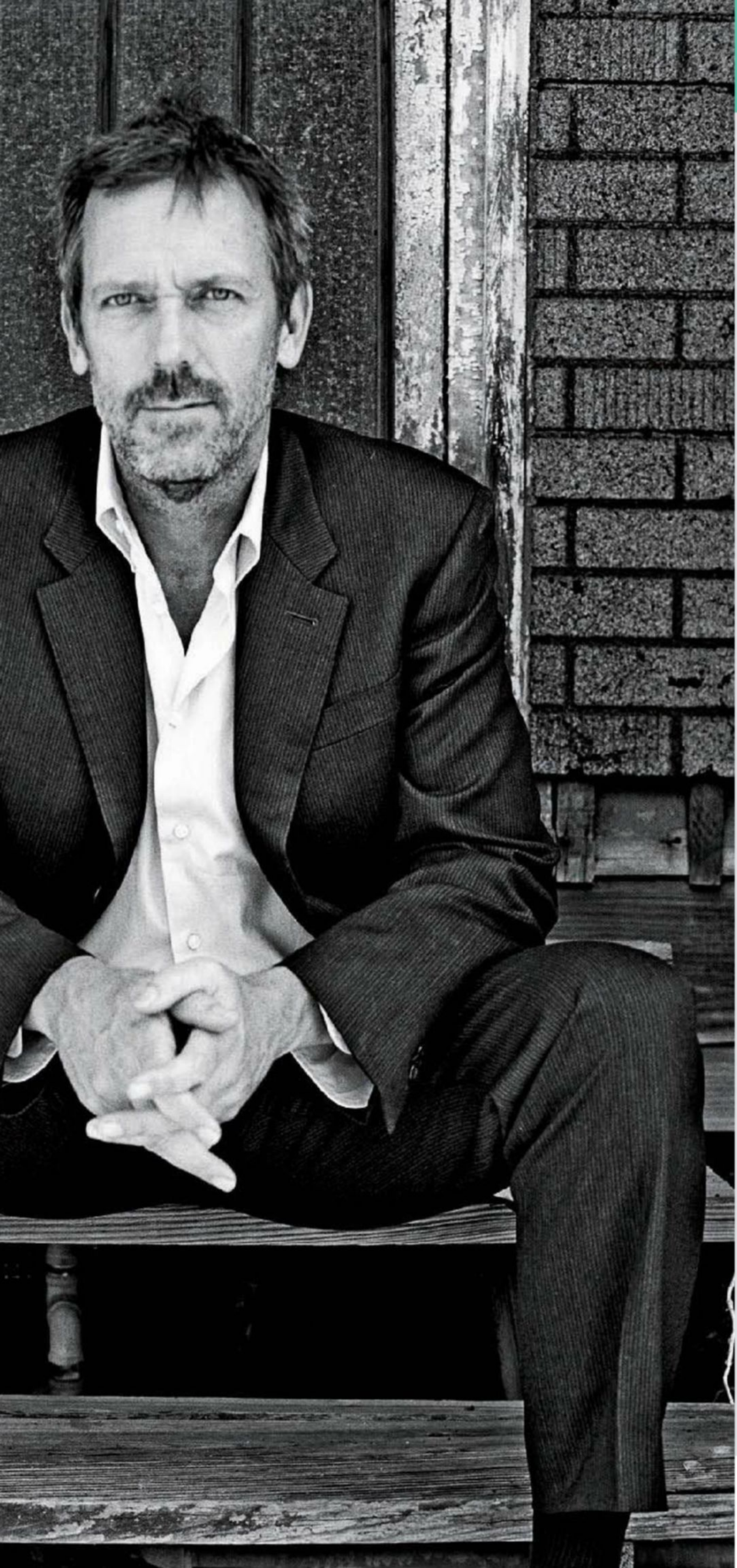
—*CAITLIN BRODY*

Were you familiar with the novel before you signed on for *Chance*?
No, it's not the kind of thing I normally read. I don't know why, it's my own stupid fault. A diligent agent sent it to me. I read the novel and loved it, although I must say after the first chapter I thought, "Well, this is a shame. This seems very good, but I can't play a doctor [again]. I'll just enjoy it and move on." But I very quickly forgot entirely about any resonance with anything I've done before and became caught up in this very dark tale.

Was it hard for you to separate Dr. Chance from Dr. House?
In my mind, [*said in an American accent*] "I build a wall." I built a wall between them and cannot imagine their two worlds colliding at all. I think of them as jazz and chamber music—they feel very, very different.

What is it about Chance that you find most appealing?
He's a man on the edge of losing his bearings altogether. This is a story that's very aware of the tiny membrane that separates us from a happy, stable, productive life, and a life of chaos, destitution, and madness. We are all on the edge all the time, and Chance goes off the precipice.

***Chance* is an intense show. How did you blow off steam after shooting?**
Besides vodka, you mean? [*Laughs*]



Unfortunately, there wasn't a lot of time for that because we go 14 hours a day. It's a pretty monastic life.... Maybe down the road we'll get our balance a bit better.

Did you do any research into neuropsychiatry?
I met a number of neuropsychiatrists, and the novelist actually based Chance on a practicing neuropsychiatrist in San Francisco named Jonathan Mueller, who is a consultant on the show. He shows up to set every now and then, nods wisely, and occasionally leans over and whispers how to pronounce something.

Ever tempted to doodle when you're "taking notes" on a patient?
I am, but I take great care to shred everything I doodle because there's no telling what I'm going to write. Sometimes I look down at the end of a scene and go, "My God, that is the most obscene, libelous, and disgraceful thing I've ever written."

You're obviously a funny guy, but *Chance* is far removed from a comedy. Will you inject any humor?
I hesitate to say the show isn't funny, because in some people's minds, you're diminishing it. But one of the things I did love about this script is that there's a style in modern TV drama...it's either wisecracking or incredibly heightened. You know, bombs are going off, a virus is going to overtake the world, or people are traveling through time. Everything has some gigantic conceit to it, and I like the downplayed nature of this.

So...any chance of playing a doctor for a third time?
Honestly, I don't think that far into the future. I think about the next hour and not much beyond that. I have no memory and no plans for the future—I'm kind of like a goldfish.

Stefania LaVie Owen and Hugh Laurie on *Chance*

PRESIDIO
FIC FEST

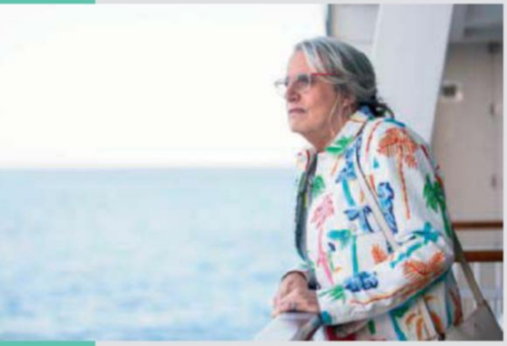
LAURIE: WB/HULU; CHANCE: DAVID MOIR/HULU

INSIDE THE WRITERS' ROOM

Transp

⊙ | *SEASON 3* | SEPT. 23 | AMAZON

FAMILY MEALS WITH THE Pfeffermans are no laughing matter, and yet as everything from transphobia to the Holocaust is discussed, they laugh and so do we—though perhaps a bit uncomfortably. But that's the point of this complex comedy. Season 2 blurred past and present, as Ali's (Gaby Hoffmann) journey traced the Pfeffermans' roots back to 1930s Germany. Season 3 will look toward the future. "When it begins, people are attempting to become new versions of themselves—dare I say transition into who they want to be," says creator Jill Soloway. "With Maura [Jeffrey Tambor], she says a version of 'I got everything I wanted. I'm still not happy. Now what?'" Well, more boundary-pushing, for one. This season, the show will broach what it means to be trans *and* HIV-positive. And spirituality, as always, will play a lead role: Sarah (Amy Landecker) and Raquel (Kathryn Hahn) work on a progressive Jewish community while Ali explores intersectionality. Expect cameos, too, from Caitlyn Jenner, playwright Ntozake Shange, and a 12-year-old trans actress named Sophia Giannamore, who plays young Maura. "In this age of 'peak TV,' we have to make people's mouths fall open, make them drop their phone, stop folding their laundry, and *engage*," says Soloway. How do they do it? We asked the writers to give us a peek behind the curtain. —*DANIELLE NUSSBAUM*

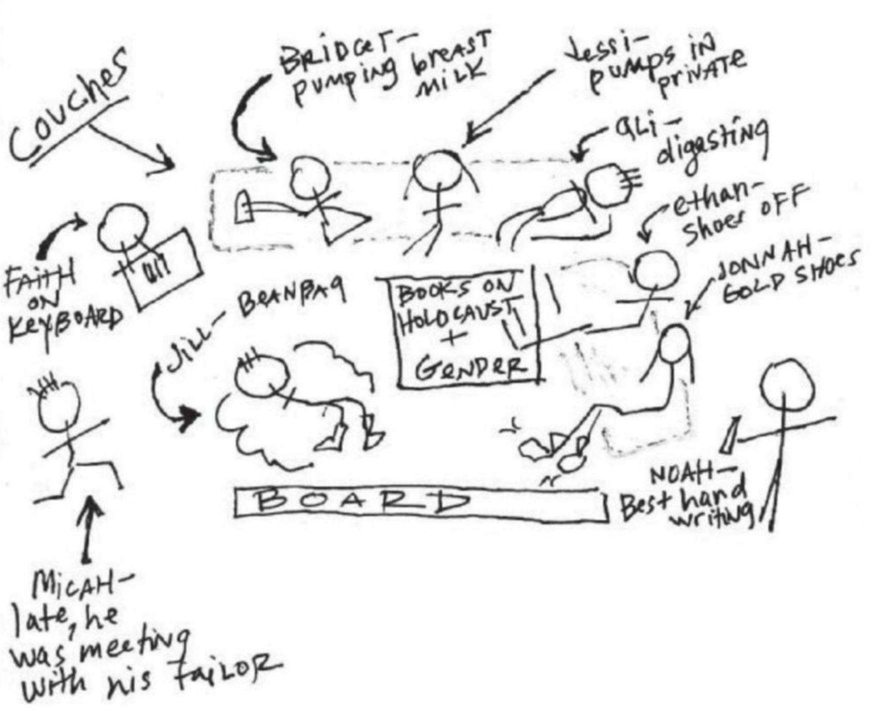


Jeffrey Tambor

TRANSPARENT: JENNIFER CLASEN/AMAZON STUDIOS; SOLOWAY: JORDAN STRAUSS/INVISION/AP IMAGES; *SHARK TANK*: BETH DUBBER/ABC; CHARCUTERIE, BABKA: GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO (2)

WRITERS' ROOM PR

1 Draw a simple bird's-eye-view diagram of the room.


Couches
BRIDGeT- pumping breast milk
Jessi- pumps in private
Ali- digesting
ethan- shoes off
FAITH ON KEYBOARD
Jill- BEANBAG
BOOKS ON HOLOCAUST + GENDER
JONNAH- GOLD SHOES
BOARD
NOAH- Best hand writing
Micah- late, he was meeting with his tailor

2 What's the soundtrack of your writers' room, and who's the resident DJ?

Faith Soloway's Spontaneous musical improvisations

3 The typical volume level of the room (on a scale of 1–10):

pitching = 5
singing = 8
three o'clock crazies = 10

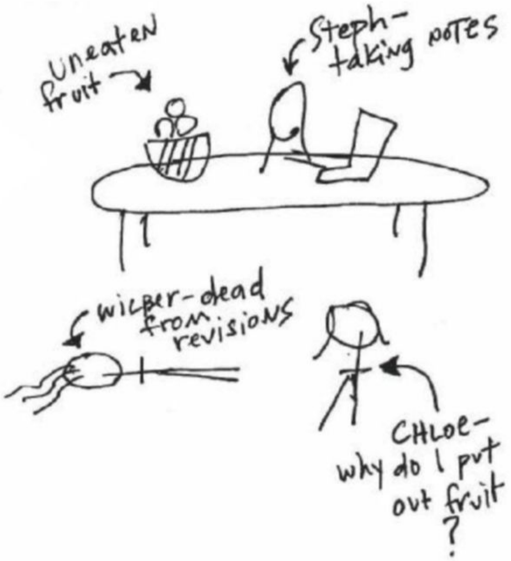
4 The name of our Wi-Fi network is ______________ because:

half the writers think it's "paramount"
half the writers say "boundaries"

Both for obvious reasons

arent

OFILE



5 What TV show gets referenced most?

we're more likely to talk about obscure foreign movies

6 List the items on your inspiration/vision board.

Smoking cats
body parts

7 When does happy hour start? Is there a signature cocktail?

we have an undisclosed number of sober writers and we don't want to trigger anyone.

8 Which characters on your show do you ship?

we all came up with different answers which reveals we do not understand this question

9 What TV show does everyone *need* to stay current on?

Shark tank

10 The three most commonly ordered delivery dishes:

Ⓐ Meatball SUB
(Nixed by "healthy writers")

Ⓑ Sushi
(nixed by accounting)

Ⓒ Sycamore Kitchen
chicken CAESAR

11 What do you do when you reach a stalemate or room-wide wall?

- ★ act out a scene
- ★ go on a vision quest led by Jill
- ★ make a charcuterie plate

12 What's one of your room traditions?

talking about our deepest feelings, fears, hopes + dreams, usually someone cries. also, Noah gives real estate advice.

13 The office's best baker is

Steph's mother-in-law

who always makes the most delicious

BABKA

New & Returning Shows

BAJILLION DOLLAR PROPERTIE$

⊙ | *SEASON 2* | SEESO

The new season of the property-show spoof comes with spectacular views of regular characters—such as Paul F. Tompkins' realty-firm boss Dean—and plenty of space for guests, like "Weird Al" Yankovic, Patton Oswalt, and Zach Galifianakis, who appears in the premiere. "Zach plays a 'bloodhound,' a specialist who comes into a house that isn't selling and sniffs out what's wrong," says creator Kulap Vilaysack. "But he sniffs *everything*." Vilaysack also offers a preview of the season's seventh episode, in which new partner Glenn (Tim Baltz) throws a *Predator*-themed party for his boss. "In our lore, the movie is based on events in Dean's life," she says. Sold! **OCT. 13**

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES

⊙ | *NEW COMEDY* | AMAZON

Woody Allen's first-ever TV series is more secretive than any J.J. Abrams project, but here's what we've managed to find out so far: *Crisis in Six Scenes* is a six-episode half-hour comedy set in the 1960s that focuses on a traditional suburban New York couple (Elaine May and Allen), their houseguest (John Magaro), and his fiancée (Rachel Brosnahan), who all have their conservative beliefs challenged by a young hippie (Miley Cyrus). We're told by a source close to the show that "Woody and Elaine never stayed on script and ad-libbed the whole time, and Miley was right in there keeping up with them." So just imagine *All in the Family*—but with Allen as a nicer Archie Bunker and Cyrus as a sexier Meathead. **SEPT. 30**

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES Woody Allen and Miley Cyrus

GOLIATH

⊙ | *NEW DRAMA* | AMAZON

A hard-drinking, down-on-his-luck trial lawyer who catches a malpractice case against a corporate behemoth—and sleeps with his client along the way? It's the kind of role Billy Bob Thornton was made for. "He's a guy that can't get out of his own way," Thornton says. "He lives in a motel. But he is the kind of guy that really believes in stuff, in what's fair." The show (which also stars the likes of William Hurt, Molly Parker, and Dwight Yoakam) comes from the mind of David E. Kelley, the man behind *The Practice* and *Boston Legal*, but Kelley assures us *Goliath* will be unlike his previous work. "It's a little bit like *Rocky* in a courtroom," he says. "You've got this guy, who's barely a contender, who keeps getting knocked down by an overwhelming favorite but keeps getting up. And if he can get to those 12 people in the jury box, that's the one place where he actually has a chance." Sounds like this show will pack quite the punch. **OCT. 14**

MARVEL'S Luke Cage

⊙ | *NEW DRAMA* | SEPT. 30 | NETFLIX

WRITER CHEO HODARI Coker had a very specific vision in mind when he interviewed with Marvel brass about continuing Luke Cage's story from *Jessica Jones*—a take that would distinguish it from everything else in the Marvel Universe. "I pitched it as [Hype Williams'] *Belly* meets *City of God*, written by the staff of *The Wire*," the showrunner says with a laugh. But more generally, Coker's *Luke Cage* is intended to hark back to the black heroes of 1970s cinema, but with the addition of modern social consciousness. "When you say 'blaxploitation,' people usually think bell-bottoms and a *waka waka* soundtrack," Coker says. "But ultimately, it is black characters getting to act the same way that their white counterparts did." Clearly, Coker has no plans to swerve around real issues of the African-American community with what is ostensibly a superhero show, and series star Mike Colter is all-in on this approach. "We're doing things that people are thinking about and not just playing it safe," he says. "People need to see themselves or feel like they're being represented in a real, honest, and three-dimensional way."

—KEVIN P. SULLIVAN

Mike Colter and Mahershala Ali

CRISIS IN SIX SCENES: JESSICA MIGLIO/AMAZON STUDIOS; *MARVEL'S LUKE CAGE*: MYLES ARONOWITZ/NETFLIX

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THE CROWN

⊙ | ***NEW DRAMA*** | NOV. 4 | NETFLIX

FAR LEFT Claire Foy as Queen Elizabeth II and Matt Smith as Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

USUALLY A TV SHOW HAS TO HAVE DRAGONS and direwolves to cost $10 million per episode. But Netflix's British-royal-family drama *The Crown* is creating an epic world every bit as ambitious as King's Landing. Based on showrunner Peter Morgan's play *The Audience*, the series plans to tell the life story of Queen Elizabeth II (Claire Foy) from the late 1940s to modern times, with each season covering roughly a decade (key roles will likely be recast every two seasons). No surprise, sourcing gobs of period costumes, jewelry, and cars—not to mention filming at historic locations—was an involved process, to say the least. "When you're dealing with the royal family, they're often on official duties, and they tend to be in incredibly expensive clothes, in incredibly expensive cars, and going to incredibly expensive houses," says EP Stephen Daldry. "So the level of production had to be incredibly high—none of this stuff is off the shelf, everything had to be made." Here Daldry escorts us through the decadent milieu of the show. *—JAMES HIBBERD*

1

PLAY PALACE

Finding locations that could convincingly fill in for Buckingham Palace was one of the show's toughest challenges. No productions are allowed to film at any of the royal residences, "and we think that's quite appropriate," Daldry says. "We constantly had to move around the whole country looking for rooms that echo Buckingham Palace—Lancaster House was often used as a double; it's the only major house in London that has anything near the scale."

2

LONDON FOG

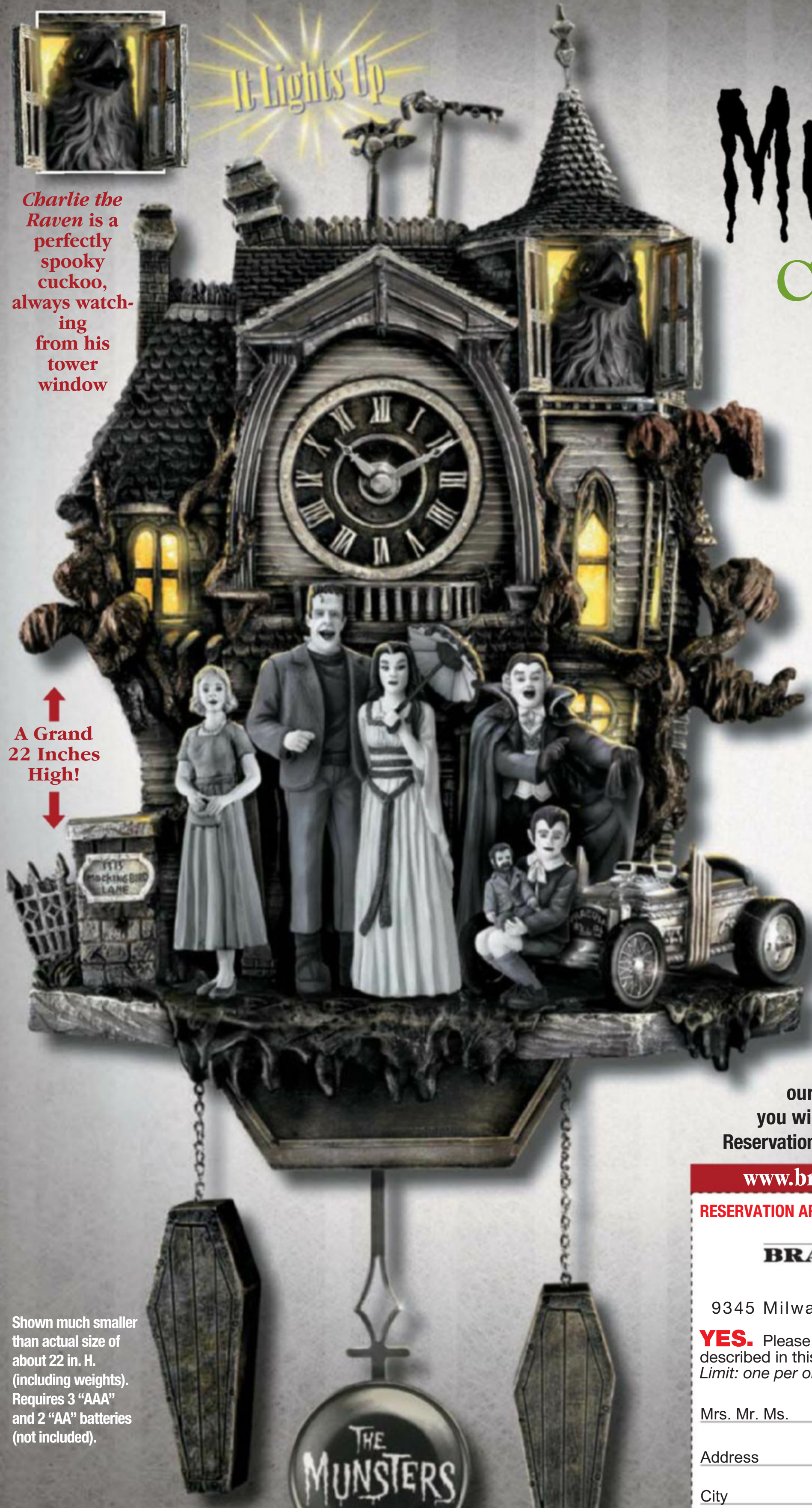
One episode is devoted to the Great Smog crisis, in which London was blanketed with so much pollution that thousands died. Productions typically use special effects to create fog in large spaces, but not *The Crown*. "We had to get a great, huge warehouse and fill it full of fog to create the great pea soup of 1952," Daldry says "We did it for real—CG didn't look good enough for us."

3

CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT

Elizabeth ascended the throne at the age of 25 after her father, King George VI, died unexpectedly, and in a landmark move, her coronation was televised live. Here, producers used a large church in Cambridge to fill in for Westminster Abbey. "I don't know how she did it," Foy marveled after shooting the scene. "Everything she wore was so heavy and uncomfortable. How it would be to be at the center of these things!"

FOY AND SMITH: ROBERT VIGLASKY/NETFLIX; *THE CROWN*: ALEX BAILEY/NETFLIX (3)



Charlie the Raven is a perfectly spooky cuckoo, always watching from his tower window

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Q+A

TIG NOTARO OF

One Mississippi

▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | SEPT. 9 | AMAZON

Noah Harpster and Tig Notaro

COMEDIAN TIG NOTARO returns to her Southern home on Amazon's *One Mississippi*, a comedy based on the period of her life in 2012 when everything went wrong: breast cancer, a life-threatening intestinal disease, her mother's death. "Writing about it, reliving moments is helpful," says Notaro, who's now healthy and recently welcomed twin boys with wife Stephanie Allynne. And it's also a bit surreal, as the 45-year-old—who previously tackled these topics in a stand-up special, documentary, and memoir—reveals. —*ARIANA BACLE*

What was it like casting the part of your mother?

My mother was a very specific person that was hard to cast because nobody was really quite right, and then when I saw Rya Kihlstedt's tape, I was like, "That *is* my mother." You can't really argue with the fact that the person has walked on set.

How did you prepare to re-create these moments from your past?

I just kind of blindly walked into scenes and just dealt with it head-on, and would walk out of a moment thinking, "Oh my gosh, I did not expect that feeling or reaction or response." A lot of the show is fictionalized, so there's even moments that never really happened, but it's still emotional to think of how my mother would have handled something or a situation that could have been.

Shows aren't set in the South too often—what do you hope to show viewers about that part of the U.S.?

It's more complex than maybe people would think. It's not all redneck and country and backwards. My sexuality is a nonissue on the show, which is the reality in my family. I think that's a cool part to the show, that there's not a big coming-out moment or anything like that. It's just part of who I am.

HATERS BACK OFF Colleen Ballinger

GOOD GIRLS REVOLT

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | AMAZON

If *Mad Men* gave us a glimpse into the New York workplace during the social and economic upheaval of the 1960s, consider *Good Girls Revolt* the female response. Inspired by Lynn Povich's book, *Good Girls Revolt: How the Women of Newsweek Sued Their Bosses and Changed the Workplace*, the drama follows a group of female researchers—played by Genevieve Angelson, Anna Camp, and Erin Darke (plus a guest turn by Grace Gummer as Nora Ephron!)—at a newsmagazine that's holding them back due to their gender. "They all go on personal journeys that allow them to come face-to-face with the reality that [their workplace] won't allow them to advance or be reporters no matter how good they are," says executive producer Dana Calvo. "At the same time they're experiencing the ups and downs that all women in their 20s go through with their relationships with their lovers and friends." Lean in to this one. **OCT. 28**

HATERS BACK OFF

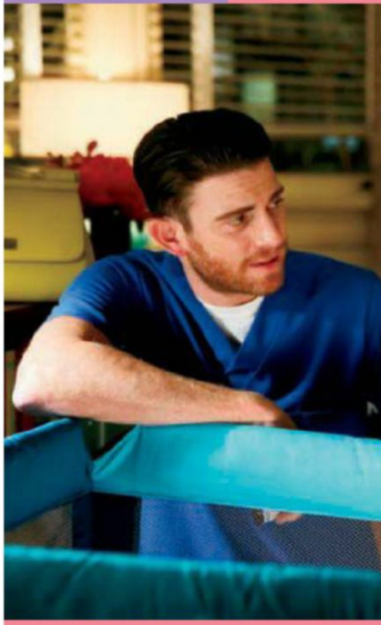
▶ | *NEW COMEDY* | NETFLIX

On YouTube, Colleen Ballinger's popular Miranda Sings character is sorta like the most annoying theater kid you knew in high school, but on steroids. She (yes) sings, she acts, she does comedy, and she's obnoxiously (and hilariously) terrible at all of it—hence all the haters. But now that the 29-year-old will be helming a proper TV show, she promises that her character will have more nuance. "The show is totally different from

A FRESH

THE

FACE ON



what my YouTube videos have shown people over the last decade," Ballinger says. "You get to see a totally different side of Miranda. You'll finally see her show empathy and emotion." Angela Kinsey (*The Office*) will play her mom, which Ballinger says will offer some clues to the home-school teen's personality. "Miranda is a little quirky because of her family and friends and other people enabling her bad behavior. Basically, this is [her] origin story." **OCT. 14**

RED OAKS

▶ | *SEASON 2* | AMAZON

Dust off those tennis whites. The second season of Amazon's sweet nostalgia trip to suburban 1980s New Jersey picks up an ocean away from the titular country club—in Paris, where the deadpan-cute David (Craig Roberts) flies to reunite with his crush Skye (Alexandra Socha). "This season is about them seemingly becoming a dream couple," co-creator Greg Jacobs says, "but then once they come back to Red Oaks and the real world, things start to slowly come apart." There will be relationship interference from both David's parents (Richard Kind and Jennifer Grey), whose marriage has flatlined, and Skye's (Paul Reiser and Gina Gershon), along with plenty of *Caddyshack*-ish high jinks, including a ribald trip to Atlantic City. Though don't expect an echo of last season's outré "Body Swap" episode, in which the elfin Roberts and the perpetually slouched Kind did just that. "I loved that one," Roberts says, "but I had a pretty intense bad back for a week." **NOV. 11**

STARTUP

▶ | *NEW DRAMA* | CRACKLE

They say that money is the root of all evil, but what about digital currencies? Also bad, apparently! In *StartUp*, a trio of Miami hustlers from different walks of life—a white-collar banker (Adam Brody), a tech wunderkind (Otmara Marrero), and a street-level gangster with a conscience (Edi Gathegi)—come together to launch a bitcoin-style business. The problem? Their funding doesn't quite come from legitimate sources. They encounter plenty of dangers along the way, not least of which include a corrupt FBI agent played by a particularly unhinged Martin Freeman. "Those are the scenes I'm most on my toes," Brody says of working alongside Freeman, "because you really don't know what he's going to do. He's throwing anything against the wall." Brody adds that he, too, had to come in masterfully prepared for his role as a tech-savvy entrepreneur: "I don't even know how to turn on my computer." **SEPT. 6**

Bryce Dallas Howard

BLACK MIRROR

▶ | *SEASON 3* | NETFLIX

How will U.K. cult hit *Black Mirror* change for its first Netflix-produced season? Hardly at all, assures creator Charlie Brooker. The six stand-alone eps will continue exploring technology's impact on humanity with twisty dark tales, but there are a few differences: a "wider scope" (the show's budget went up a bit) and a more diverse array of tones. "You can't pick which episode best represents the season as they're all outliers," says Brooker. Each story is even in a different genre, from social satire ("Nosedive," starring Bryce Dallas Howard as an office worker who lives in a world where every social interaction is rated) to a Scandi-Noir-inspired crime drama ("Hated in the Nation," starring Kelly Macdonald as a detective investigating murders seemingly inspired by online rage) to a period piece ("San Junipero," starring Mackenzie Davis as a newcomer in an '80s beach town). "When Netflix picked us up, people were going, 'Oh, that means it's going to be Americanized,'" Brooker says. "I thought it would be funny to f--- with those people by literally writing an episode set in California." **OCT. 21**

Mindy Project

▶ | *SEASON 5* | OCT. 4 | HULU

Bryan Greenberg and Mindy Kaling

THE LAST THING MINDY Lahiri needs is another romance—or maybe that's exactly what Mindy Lahiri needs, as season 5 of Hulu's rom-com finds the doc reeling from juggling two beaux last year. But perhaps new cast member Bryan Greenberg will stabilize this heart. "If there's an attractive male in Mindy's vicinity on our show, romance is never off the table," says creator and star Mindy Kaling. Greenberg's introduction this season initially serves a different purpose, however: As Ben, a new pediatric nurse (and nursing union activist), he thinks Mindy is a spoiled princess yet gets on great with her little prince, baby Leo. "A cool thing about Ben is that he's a straight-shooting working-class guy, and he has an energy we haven't had much of on the show," raves Kaling. "He's unimpressed by the material stuff Mindy spends her life obsessing about. And Leo likes him a lot. As a pediatric nurse, Ben knows a lot of toddler tricks and has seen every episode of *Dora the Explorer* 40 times. He's a big fan." And Kaling & Co. were also fans of Greenberg. "We were excited to work with Bryan after his great turns in *One Tree Hill* and *How to Make It in America*," says Kaling. "Also, he got to work with Meryl Streep in *Prime*, and Bryan is already giving up tons of good gossip. Did you know Meryl is 'great at acting'?"

—*MARC SNETIKER*

STREAMING WRITTEN AND REPORTED BY Clark Collis, James Hibberd, Joe McGovern, Ray Rahman, and Sara Vilkomerson

ONE MISSISSIPPI: MICHELE K. SHORT/AMAZON STUDIOS; *HATERS BACK OFF*: CAROLE SEGAL/NETFLIX; *THE MINDY PROJECT*: JORDIN ALTHAUS/UNIVERSAL TELEVISION; *BLACK MIRROR*: DAVID DETTMANN/NETFLIX

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Fall's Best New Shows

WATCHING EVERY SINGLE FALL PILOT ISN'T EASY, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT. EW'S TV CRITIC JEFF JENSEN MAKES HIS PICKS FOR THE SERIES THAT RISE TO THE TOP.

The Good Place's Kristen Bell and Ted Danson, *Westworld*'s Evan Rachel Wood, *Atlanta*'s Donald Glover, *This Is Us*' Mandy Moore, and *Designated Survivor*'s Kiefer Sutherland

THE GOOD PLACE

▶ | SEPT. 19 | 10PM | NBC

Bad person Kristen Bell dies and gets mistakenly sent to something like heaven, a buggy designer community of assigned soul mates and fro-yo shops, meticulously imagineered by Ted Danson. A sharp satire of goodness from *Parks and Recreation* co-creator Michael Schur, *The Good Place* risks being too high-concept. But Bell and Danson are winning, and Schur's vision is truly inspired.

WESTWORLD

▶ | OCT. 2 | 9PM | HBO

Your next prestige geek obsession? Jonathan Nolan (*Person of Interest*) and Lisa Joy (*Burn Notice*) transform a cult classic about a high-tech Wild West theme park gone haywire into epic sci-fi existentialism and allegory about reality-blur entertainment. Anthony Hopkins, Ed Harris, and Jeffrey Wright ground the headiness, but it was Thandie Newton's arc in episode 2 that made me care.

ATLANTA

▶ | SEPT. 6 | 10PM | FX

Community's Donald Glover graduates to showrunner-auteur, and with high honors. The creator/writer/EP/star plays a college dropout seeking purpose by managing his rapper cousin (Brian Tyree Henry) into a star. Brilliantly directed by Hiro Murai, *Atlanta* captivates with bluesy moodiness, dark comedy, and poignant takes on hustle and struggle. It's a risky, personal work in the vein of *Louie*, and just as rewarding.

THIS IS US

▶ | SEPT. 20 | 10PM | NBC

A new-century generational drama, *This Is Us* is a moving marvel with an extraordinary cast, an intriguing approach, and a pretentious title that shouldn't be held against it. A diverse band of thirtysomethings who happen to have the same birthday struggle with issues of identity, personal history, and profound life events in a wise, grounded, funny story chockablock with surprise. Trust me. Just watch it.

DESIGNATED SURVIVOR

▶ | SEPT. 21 | 10PM | ABC

Stripped of gruff and grumble, *24*'s Kiefer Sutherland plays a nerdy, earnest Cabinet secretary who gets elevated to prez when POTUS and almost everyone else in government gets blown up in a presumed terrorist attack. The slick, gripping pilot hooks you, and Sutherland—energized by the change of pace—is commanding and convincing. Not Jack Bauer, yet crackerjack as ever.

RUNNERS-UP

SPEECHLESS
Minnie Driver is hilariously uncorked as a Momzilla who advocates for her son (Micah Fowler) with cerebral palsy.
SEPT. 21 | 8:30PM | ABC

BETTER THINGS
Pamela Adlon draws upon her experience as an actress and single parent to make raw, unruly dramedy, co-created by Louis C.K.
SEPT. 8 | 10PM | FX

SON OF ZORN
Meet the fall's zaniest, riskiest critique of retrograde masculinity: a cartoon barbarian (voiced by Jason Sudeikis), trying to reconnect with his very human family.
SEPT. 11 | 8PM | FOX

THE GOOD PLACE: JUSTIN LUBIN/NBC; *WESTWORLD*: JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO; *ATLANTA*: MATTHIAS CLAMER/FX; *THIS IS US*: RON BATZDORF/NBC; *DESIGNATED SURVIVOR*: BEN MARK/ABC

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY **CARLY KLAIRE**

WHAT

To help organize your viewing schedule in the era of peak TV, we've put together this calendar of all the 118 series covered in the previous pages, plus 19 more shows and specials.
—CHANCELLOR AGARD

SEPT

SEPT. 5

NEW **Mary + Jane**
10PM | MTV

SEPT. 6

NEW **Atlanta**
10PM | FX

NEW **Queen Sugar**
10PM | OWN

NEW **StartUp**
CRACKLE

SEPT. 7

Gaycation
10:30PM | VICELAND
Ellen Page explores LGBT culture around the world.

SEPT. 8

NEW **Better Things**
10PM | FX

SEPT. 9

NEW **Quarry**
10PM | CINEMAX

NEW **One Mississippi**
AMAZON

SEPT. 11

NEW **Son of Zorn**
8PM | FOX

Masterpiece's Indian Summers
10PM | PBS
A soapy examination of the decline of British imperialism in India.

Masters of Sex
10PM | SHOWTIME

SEPT. 12

Dancing With the Stars
8PM | ABC

SEPT. 14

American Horror Story
10PM | FX
We'll be tuning in to find out what the sixth installment is about too.

Blindspot
10PM | NBC

Documentary Now!
10PM | IFC
The Bill Hader–Fred Armisen cabinet of curiosities returns for season 2.

South Park
10PM | COMEDY CENTRAL

SEPT. 15

Project Runway
9PM | LIFETIME
Celebrating 15 seasons of making it work!

SEPT. 16

NEW **High Maintenance**
11PM | HBO

SEPT. 18

68th Emmy Awards
7PM | ABC
Fingers crossed seven-time nominee Hugh Laurie gets his Susan Lucci moment.

NEW **The Case Of: JonBenét Ramsey**
8:30PM | CBS
A docuseries that dives back into the unsolved 20-year-old case.

SEPT. 19

The Big Bang Theory
8PM | CBS

Gotham
8PM | FOX

The Voice
8PM | NBC

NEW **Kevin Can Wait**
8:30PM | CBS

Lucifer
9PM | FOX

NEW **The Good Place**
10PM | NBC

SEPT. 20

Brooklyn Nine-Nine
8PM | FOX

NCIS
8PM | CBS

New Girl
8:30PM | FOX

NEW **Bull**
9PM | CBS

Scream Queens
9PM | FOX

Marvel's Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.
10PM | ABC

NCIS: New Orleans
10PM | CBS

NEW **This Is Us**
10PM | NBC

SEPT. 21

The Goldbergs
8PM | ABC

NEW **Lethal Weapon**
8PM | FOX

Survivor: Millennials vs. Gen X
8PM | CBS

NEW **Speechless**
8:30PM | ABC

Empire
9PM | FOX

Law & Order: SVU
9PM | NBC

Modern Family
9PM | ABC

black-ish
9:30PM | ABC

Chicago P.D.
10PM | NBC

INCORPORATED

NEW DRAMA | SYFY
NOV. 30 | 10PM

“TOO BIG TO FAIL” TAKES ON A NEW MEANING IN THIS 10-EPISODE tale about a near-future world run by large corporations and divided between the Green Zones for the wealthy and the Red Zones for the poor. Caught in the middle of this dystopian landscape is Ben (*Reign*'s Sean Teale), a man born in a Red Zone who has infiltrated a Green under a false identity to find a missing woman from his past. When she resurfaces years later, he struggles to leave his wife (Allison Miller) and his cushy white-collar life as a junior executive behind. “It's a corporate espionage show,” executive producer Ted Humphrey says. “Ben is living a lie...but what began as a deceit has become real.” Or, as Teale puts it: “It's just so bloody tempting to stay.” If the suit fits... *—SHIRLEY LI*

Sean Teale

BEN MARK HOLZBERG/SYFY

TO WATCH

Ali Wentworth and Gwyneth Paltrow

NIGHTCAP

NEW COMEDY | POP
NOV. 16 | 8PM

BOOKING A-LIST GUEST ACTORS LIKE GWYNETH PALTROW, PAUL Rudd, Sarah Jessica Parker, and more for her new show wasn't hard for comedian Ali Wentworth—all it took was an email. "They are very kind and nice friends. There wasn't any pushing," says the star and executive producer. "I didn't threaten their lives or steal their dogs or anything." *Nightcap* is a satirical comedy that follows Staci (Wentworth), the neurotic head talent booker of a late-night talk show, as she contends with everything from Mariska Hargitay possibly being swallowed by an anaconda to a kleptomaniac Paltrow, who had the distinction of making Wentworth break. "I will never ruin a take because it's just a pain in the ass, because you're wearing the executive-producer hat," says Wentworth. "We had to stop a couple times because she kept making me laugh." *—CHANCELLOR AGARD*

NEW **Designated Survivor**
10PM | ABC

SEPT. 22

Grey's Anatomy
8PM | ABC

Rosewood
8PM | FOX

Superstore
8PM | NBC

Chicago Med
9PM | NBC

NEW **Notorious**
9PM | ABC

NEW **Pitch**
9PM | FOX

The Blacklist
10PM | NBC

How to Get Away With Murder
10PM | ABC

SEPT. 23

Hell's Kitchen
8PM | FOX

Last Man Standing
8PM | ABC

NEW **MacGyver**
8PM | CBS

Dr. Ken
8:30PM | ABC

NEW **The Exorcist**
9PM | FOX

Hawaii Five-0
9PM | CBS

Shark Tank
9PM | ABC

Blue Bloods
10PM | CBS

NEW **Van Helsing**
10PM | SYFY

Transparent
AMAZON

SEPT. 25

Bob's Burgers
7:30PM | FOX

Once Upon a Time
8PM | ABC

The Simpsons
8PM | FOX

Family Guy
9PM | FOX

Secret and Lies
9PM | ABC

The Last Man on Earth
9:30PM | FOX

Quantico
10PM | ABC

SEPT. 26

NEW **Vice News Tonight**
7:30PM | HBO
It's not the nightly news. It's HBO.

SEPT. 27

NEW **Aftermath**
10PM | SYFY

SEPT. 28

Criminal Minds
9PM | CBS

Code Black
10PM | CBS

Younger
10PM | TV LAND

SEPT. 30

NEW **Crisis in Six Scenes**
AMAZON

NEW **Marvel's Luke Cage**
NETFLIX

OCT

OCT. 2

Ash vs Evil Dead
8PM | STARZ

NCIS: Los Angeles
8PM | CBS

Blunt Talk
8:30PM | STARZ
Patrick Stewart takes a break from hanging with Ian McKellen to return for season 2.

Madam Secretary
9PM | CBS

Shameless
9PM | SHOWTIME

NEW **Westworld**
9PM | HBO

Elementary
10PM | CBS

NIGHTCAP: JEFFREY NEIRA; MARVEL'S *LUKE CAGE*: MYLES ARONOWITZ/NETFLIX

ALL DATES AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

WHAT TO WATCH

Taylor Dearden and Eliza Bennett

SWEET/VICIOUS

NEW DRAMA	MTV
NOV. 15	10PM

"WHAT IF QUENTIN TARANTINO WROTE *GIRLS*?" THAT'S THE question *Sweet/Vicious* creator Jennifer Kaytin Robinson asked herself while finding the tone for the story of Jules (Eliza Bennett), a college sorority girl who takes matters into her own hands after she's sexually assaulted. When Jules starts spending her nights beating up sexual offenders, she runs into Ophelia (Taylor Dearden), a classic college loner, and the two spark an unlikely friendship. "They're definitely the odd couple," Bennett says. "They find this comfort with each other, even though they never would've been seen together had this not have happened to Jules." At its core, Robinson says this is a show about female friendship. It just happens that the friends spend their evenings kicking ass in black hoodies. —*SAMANTHA HIGHFILL*

PAGING ALL TV ADDICTS!

Subscribe to EW's *What to Watch* podcast for a fun, candid conversation with Ray Rahman and Amy Wilkinson every Friday about the week in TV and streaming, as they dissect the latest cliff-hangers and answer your burning questions. *(Available on iTunes)*

OCT. 3

Scorpion
9PM | CBS

NEW **Conviction**
10PM | ABC

NEW **Timeless**
10PM | NBC

OCT. 4

The Flash
8PM | THE CW

NEW **No Tomorrow**
9PM | THE CW

The Mindy Project
HULU

OCT. 5

Arrow
8PM | THE CW

NEW **Frequency**
9PM | THE CW

OCT. 9

NEW **Divorce**
10PM | HBO

NEW **Insecure**
10:30PM | HBO

OCT. 10

Supergirl
8PM | THE CW

2 Broke Girls
9PM | CBS

OCT. 11

NEW **Ben & Lauren: Happily Ever After?**
8PM | FREEFORM
It's the reboot of MTV's *Newlyweds: Nick & Jessica* we all wanted. Right?

The Middle
8PM | ABC

NEW **American Housewife**
8:30PM | ABC

Fresh Off the Boat
9PM | ABC

Real Husbands of Hollywood
9PM | BET
What actor-comedian Kevin Hart does when he's not bringing in the big bucks at the box office.

The Real O'Neals
9:30PM | ABC

Chicago Fire
10PM | NBC

OCT. 13

DC's Legends of Tomorrow
8PM | THE CW

Supernatural
9PM | THE CW

NEW **Falling Water**
10PM | USA

Bajillion Dollar Propertie$
SEESO

OCT. 14

NEW **Goliath**
AMAZON

NEW **Haters Back Off**
NETFLIX

OCT. 17

Jane the Virgin
9PM | THE CW

The Odd Couple
9:30PM | CBS

OCT. 19

NEW **Chance**
HULU

OCT. 20

The Rocky Horror Picture Show: Let's Do the Time Warp Again
8PM | FOX
Give yourself over to this reimagining of the cult hit.

OCT. 21

The Vampire Diaries
8PM | THE CW

Crazy Ex-Girlfriend
9PM | THE CW

Great Performances: Hamilton's America
9PM | PBS
This documentary will add fuel to your *Hamilton* FOMO.

Black Mirror
NETFLIX

OCT. 22

NEW **Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency**
9PM | BBC AMERICA

OCT. 23

The Walking Dead
9PM | AMC

OCT. 24

NEW **Man With a Plan**
8:30PM | CBS

OCT. 26

Rectify
10PM | SUNDANCETV

OCT. 27

NEW **The Great Indoors**
8:30PM | CBS

Mom
9PM | CBS

Life in Pieces
9:30PM | CBS

NEW **Pure Genius**
10PM | CBS

OCT. 28

NEW **Good Girls Revolt**
AMAZON

OCT. 31

NEW **People of Earth**
9PM | TBS
A journalist probes a alien-abductee support group for the truth.

NOV

NOV. 2

Salem
9PM | WGN AMERICA
Historical inaccuracies abound as the devil comes to 17th-century Salem.

NOV. 4

NEW **The Crown**
NETFLIX

NOV. 11

Red Oaks
AMAZON

NOV. 15

NEW **Good Behavior**
9PM | TNT

Teen Wolf
9PM | MTV

NOV. 20

The Affair
10PM | SHOWTIME

NOV. 21

NEW **Search Party**
11PM | TBS
Maeby you should check out Alia Shawkat on this dark comedy about the self-absorbed friends of a missing girl.

NOV. 25

Gilmore Girls: A Year in the Life
NETFLIX

SWEET/VICIOUS: SCOTT EVERETT WHITE/MTV; *FRESH OFF THE BOAT*: ERIC MCCANDLESS

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My Wedding Plans!
KENDRA'S SHOCKING CHOICE
Why I Haven't Left Hank
EXCLUSIVE
JOAN LUNDEN FIGHTS CANCER
'I WILL BEAT THIS'
The beloved former Good Morning America host on her inspiring, emotional journey

The letters that gave her hope

The bandana that covered her head

The family that stood by her side

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The Bullseye

FALL TV
EDITION!

BY **MARC SNETIKER** @MarcSnetiker

Fall is good, but it could have been *Good*-er.

HBO's *Westworld* > CBS' Wiest world

The ladies who LOL

Let's hope *Survivor: Millennials vs. Gen X* is a lot better than *Flappers vs. Baby Boomers*.

You take the good, you take the bad, you take Mindy Cohn on *Worst Cooks in America: Celebrity Edition*, and there you have: the facts of knife.

The only diva on *Empire* who could make Cookie crumble

Miley Cyrus: turning chairs on *The Voice* and heads on Woody Allen's Amazon series

Kiefer Sutherland becomes president on *Designated Survivor*. At least he had good mentors.

So, we're really into baseball now?

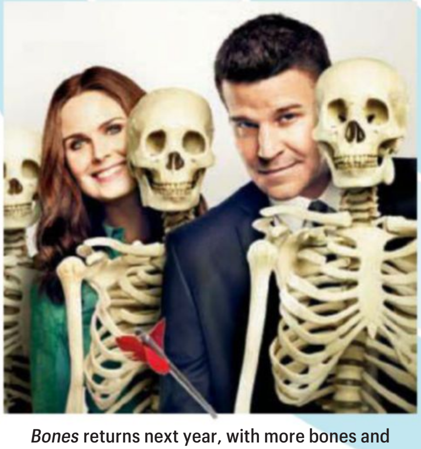
This is us, watching *This Is Us*.

Thank your lucky Stars Hollow, the Gilmores are back.

Congrats to Laurie Hernandez, who already won this season of *Dancing With the Stars*.

This fall's eye candy

This fall's aaaah candy



Bones returns next year, with more bones and bones-related story lines than ever.

Ehhh, maybe Kevin can wait a little longer.

Rob & Chyna premieres this September, and your TV preemptively wants a *Silkwood* shower.

COHN: MICHAEL TULLBERG/GETTY IMAGES; *SURVIVOR*: ROBERT VOETS/CBS; *CRAZY EX-GIRLFRIEND*: MATHIEU YOUNG/THE CW; *SUPERSTORE*: CHRIS HASTON/NBC; *BLACK-ISH*: BOB D'AMICO/ABC; *24*: JOSEPH VILES/FOX; *24*: LORENZO AGIUS/FOX; *24*: BRIAN BOWEN SMITH/FOX; *PITCH*: TOMMY GARCIA / FOX (2); *GILMORE GIRLS: A YEAR IN THE LIFE*: SAEED ADYANI/NETFLIX; ROB KARDASHIAN AND BLAC CHYNA: GABE GINSBERG/GETTY IMAGES; *KEVIN CAN WAIT*: DAVE GIESBRECHT/CBS; *MARVEL'S LUKE CAGE*: MYLES ARONOWITZ/NETFLIX; *SCREAM QUEENS*: TOMMY GARCIA/FOX; *INCORPORATED*: KEN WORONER/SYFY; *BONES*: FOX; HERNANDEZ: ANTHONY HARVEY/GETTY IMAGES; *THE VOICE*: TRAE PATTON/NBC/NBCU PHOTO BANK VIA GETTY IMAGES; MARIAH CAREY: ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; *WESTWORLD*: JOHN P. JOHNSON/HBO; *LIFE IN PIECES*: NEIL JACOBS/CBS; *THE GOOD WIFE*: JEFF NEUMANN/CBS;

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